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Identity is more than sexuality



MARC LANTHIER

Thanks in part to the latest vogue of "Sexuality as Identity" that seems to be earning an overwhelming number of subscribers, and thanks in part to the seeming reversal of the evolutionary process, my feather would like to ink philosophical by dropping a few lines on the glorification of the miracle of life.

When they told us that it's now okay to reveal our deepest desires and to pursue the fulfillment of our most intimate fantasies, the pedophiles took it to heart. But hey, they're just expressing themselves. Personal aside: yes, I'm Canadian, and yes I voted NDP, so yes I fully support smoking medicinal marijuana at impromptu gay marriages during the first-period break of Abortion Night in Canada, brought to you in part by Free Health Care. What I *don't* support is this general belief that sexuality is intrinsic to my character, and that I should be sexually oriented whatsoever, let alone have to distinguish myself by flaunting it. *Ars erotica* anyone? It makes sense.

We live in a "liberal" society, so let's liberate our inner primate. Let's get biological! Let's remind ourselves that our reproductive facilities are in prime condition—thrice daily. From experience, those who don't consider sexuality to be the core of their person are about as stable as a horse's home, because sexual liberation doesn't refer to a genuine liberation of self. It refers to liberating your pants of their former residents and unbuckling the seat belt of conscience before taking a crash-course in hedonism—of confusing pleasure with happiness. This liberation only ever leads to debasement anyway. The "slut" stigma wouldn't exist if the sex were left to the mothers, nor would the power of life be left to the durability of latex.

Is it not unjust to repeatedly give my living sperm a false sense of hope? What's more confusing: gun-loving pacifists or all the nymphomaniacs who don't want kids? Such moral dilemmas are incurring the wrath of the gods:

God 1: "Looks like the boomers have lost it."

God 2: "They never had it."

God 1: "You're right. What of our leaders of tomorrow?"

God 2: "The kids aren't alright. They've been poisoned with pleasure."

God 1: "WTF is their problem? We've been here the whole time! You mean to say that enlightenment has been subordinated to the ol' bumping of uglies?"

God 2: "Supposedly it defines them, or something."

God 1: "I *told* dudes to lay off the dopamine during the Construction. Maybe we should've stuck with the egg-laying plan."

Captain Universe: "Attention inhabitants of Planet Fuck, your continuous and synchronous thrusting has tipped the Earth right out of the Sun's rotation. Now you're cosmically fucked! Do you love it?"

In keeping with a 20th-century tradition of caring about things we needn't care about, sexuality has become especially representative of our age of distraction, where "apocalyptic dread has receded from the popular unconscious" (re: k-punk) over the past few decades in favour of who's fucking who.

But who *is* fucking who? For years, films like *American Pie* have been feeding the discourse-horse the brainwash-barley. Hopefully the culture cops will finally show up and lock away Sexuality and her junior partner-in-crime Self Image—both guilty of being cultural red-herrings—so that we can find something new to obsess over that isn't so conducive to passivity and self-obsession.

Perhaps Chicken Licken and her merry band of tin-foil-hat conspirators are right: perhaps the sky is falling, and none of you emmeffers are going to be able to hold it up unless you pull your hands out of your pants.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2007/2008 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008 and pays \$1859.40/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2006/2007 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 2 March 2007**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

LINE EDITORS

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2007/2008 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
OPINION EDITOR
SPORTS EDITOR
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
PHOTO EDITOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1549.50* per month; all other line editors will receive \$1222.00* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 9 March 2007**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/jssjs



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The Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival is the biggest cross-country skiing event of its kind in North America. Since 1985, the festival has attracted skiers to the Blackfoot trails for the annual wintertime race.

by Robin Collum
photos by Liz Durden

GO DOWN TO ONE OF OUR CITY'S MANY PARKS ON A NICE NIGHT WHEN the snow is good, and you're bound to find dozens of cross-country skiers enjoying the trails. They'll run the gamut in age, fitness level and experience, but what they'll have in common is a love of skiing and a desire to enjoy the outdoors. In fact, there's a good chance that you could see someone you know.

University of Alberta student Maryann Heacock has been cross-country skiing, by her own account, "forever." Her parents were skiers, and they brought her and her older brother into the sport. As children, they both participated in Jackrabbit lessons from Edmonton Nordic Ski Club, and the whole family would ski together. Ask around the University, and you're bound to find other stories just like hers, because northern Alberta is the heart of cross-country skiing in Canada.

Thanks to a combination of history, great trails and just plain old good conditions, cross-country skiing gets huge participation in this province. Competitively, Alberta looms large as well, producing some of the country's top skiers, and the Canadian national team trains year-round in Canmore.

The sport's appeal is obvious. It offers a good workout and the chance to be outside.

"It's the closeness to nature that's my favourite part," says Joan Skinstad, head coach of the cross-country ski team at the U of A's Augustana campus in Camrose. She's been skiing since she was four years old, and has a list of reasons she loves the sport. "There's the ability to go by yourself if you want, or go as a group. It's an individual-type commitment, so how fit you want to be is up to you, and it's a lifelong activity you can do into your 80s."

Skiers from all over Alberta can see each other this weekend, at the biggest event on the Edmonton ski calendar. The Canadian Birkebeiner Ski Festival is the biggest cross-country ski festival of its kind in North America, and has been running since 1985 (though they have had to cancel a few times due to lack of snow). The festival is based on an event in Norwegian history; in 1209, two warriors rescued their infant crown prince during a civil war by skiing across the country. The modern Birkie offers races for skiers at various levels, from a 2.5 km race for kids to a 55km Torskeklubben, where racers carry a 5.5 kilogram pack to represent the medieval prince.

The race is held east of Edmonton near Elk Island Provincial Park, at Blackfoot recreation area. Blackfoot is one of the many venues available for skiers in the Edmonton area. It boasts an enormous trail system, and is a popular day-trip destination.

Skinstad says cross-country skiing helps make the cold winters fun.

"We all like to get out in the summer, but what can you do in the winter? [Cross-country skiing] is one of the few things ... besides

walking that you can go out and do in nature in the wintertime—and we have a lot of winter."

National team skier and Edmonton native, Madeleine Williams, agrees with Skinstad, and values the opportunity skiing gives to spend time outdoors.

"It's a pleasure to be outside," she says. "There's so much variety in the scenery, whereas a lot of sports you're just going around a track or in one place all the time. With cross-country skiing you get to be outside, and it's fun."

Albertans like Williams make up nearly half of the current Canadian Senior National team. Olympic gold- and silver-medallist Beckie Scott, who retired from competition last spring, hails from Vermilion, east of Edmonton.

Williams thinks that Albertans' dominance comes from more than just the sheer popularity of skiing in the province. She believes that Albertans generally have a more competitive spirit than their peers.

"I think partly why so many elite skiers come from here is because of the infrastructure we have here, and also I think it's the mentality of Albertans," she says. "It's not just in cross-country skiing that there are a lot of successful athletes coming out of Alberta. It has something to do with the way Albertans think of success and winning, rather than just participation, as being important."

That competitive urge aside, cross-country skiing is most popular as a recreational sport in Alberta, and in many ways Heacock and Williams' careers in skiing are atypical of the average skier because they've continued to compete and participate through their teenage years. Cross-country skiing is generally an adult sport.

"I think it's primarily a sport for adults," says Doug Wiens, a math professor at the U of A and avid cross-country skier. "I think what happens is that people do it with their kids but once the kids don't have to anymore, they quit, and maybe take it back up again as adults."

Wiens came to cross-country skiing as an adult, and only really got serious about the sport once he moved to Edmonton in the 1980s. He appreciates the social as well as the physical aspect of the sport, and skis with friends every week at Goldbar Park, taking a course through the Edmonton Nordic ski club.

Heacock knows her way around the local ski community as well.

"It's a subculture. It's surprising how many people, when you start talking to them, have skied or ski," she says. "Even in the University, there's a lot of people who ski; in a lot of ways, it's a really close community."

That sense of community and camaraderie is another part cross-country skiing's appeal. Heacock credits the social aspect of skiing with getting her interested in competition as a child, and with keeping her skiing even as many kids her age were quitting the sport. She continues to ski competitively, and will represent Alberta at Nationals at Mont-St-Anne, Québec, in March.

"I don't even know when I started racing, but it was loppets, which are just fun races anyone can do. After the races would be the really fun time, hanging out with my friends," she says. "It was fun for me, and it was my social group, too. I have lots of really good friends from skiing. It became easy to stick with it, even as my other friends stopped, because I was still having fun."

Williams likes that she can come home from training and reconnect with the people she skied with when she was younger.

"Edmonton is the biggest ski centre in northern Alberta, and it's not huge, but the community's close-knit," she says. "I know everyone when I come back to Edmonton for Christmas and see people on the trails. They know who I am and I know who they are, and it's a great feeling."

A wealth of trails is one of the ski community's biggest assets.

"Skiing is popular because the snow is reliable and there are great trails, like Goldbar and Blackfoot," says Wiens. "There are lots of trails, and they're well-maintained, largely through volunteer work."

Cross-country skiing is a growing sport, and the trend is likely to continue. It has received a lot of media exposure thanks to high-profile international athletes, and participation is also linked to the social concern about leading active lifestyles.

"I think there's no question that it's growing in popularity," says Skinstad. "When I started, you would hardly meet another skier out there, and now it's hard to get to be by yourself in many centres. And it's relatively low-cost, as well. For program fees: once you've made that initial equipment buy, you're good for a long time. For parents looking for activities for their children, it's great."

"Sara Renner, who won a medal for Canada at the Olympics, said that cross-country skiing is going to be the new yoga," says Heacock. "She was half joking, but actually it should be. It's rhythmic, relaxing and really therapeutic."

"It's my sport. It's what I do."



"Skiing is popular because the snow is reliable and there are great trails, like Goldbar and Blackfoot. There are lots of trails, and they're well-maintained, largely through volunteer work."

CROSS COUNTRY SKIER MARYANN HEACOCK



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

U of A Drama Department 7th Annual New Play Festival

"Nude Works"

13-17 February at 8 pm

Second Playing Space, Timms Centre for the Arts

\$5 at door per show, or \$5 for four shows on 16 February

In our puritanical society, where the nude form has been curtailed into only appearing on television, the farthest outreaches of the Internet and plastic slip-covered magazines at the convenience store, it's refreshing to see some attention finally paid to situations where people have no clothes on. So put on your most dapper birthday suit and run stark naked screaming down the street to the Timms Centre for the Drama Department's seventh Annual New Play Festival, which this year is themed "Nude Works." Featuring six plays focused on various emotional associations with nakedness, the skin-tastic theatrics of "Nude Works" will literally "get you so amped up, you just come out of your shirt," as our friend Chingy would say. As an aside, the Drama Department must be applauded for their combination of economic savvy with tactful, witty alliteration in their advertising scheme. The "Nude Works" \$5 pass for four shows on February 16th has been christened the 'Full Frontal Friday Pass.' Touché, Drama Department. Touché.

Serena Ryder

With Lindsay Ell

Friday, 9 February at 9pm

Sidetrack Cafe

Tickets Through Ticketmaster

With vocal cords that command a striking three-octave musical range, Toronto chanteuse Serena Ryder can simultaneously belt out bluesy folk medleys, make Josh Groban cry like a little girl and call her dolphin friends if she's in danger. She's touring to support her new record, *If Your Memory Serves You Well*, a collection of covers from Canada's past during the years 1867-1967. Ryder covered classics by Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and the favourite Canuck crooner Leonard Cohen among several others, reviving these pieces while instilling in each her own distinct, youthful voice. If paying tribute to Canadian standards and signalling heroic aquatic mammals doesn't convince you that Serena Ryder is hip, then consider this: judging by pictures on her MySpace page, Ryder has met George Stroumboulopoulos in person. This fact alone gives her additional, second-hand coolness.

La Moustache

Directed by Emmanuel Carrère

Starring Vincent Lindon, Emmanuelle Devos and Mathieu Amalric

Metro Cinema

Runs 9-12 February

One night Marc Thieriez (Vincent Lindon) decides to cut off the moustache he's had for most of his mature life. To his surprise, the people around him—including his wife—don't notice the absence of his dirt-lip. As he brings up its disappearance, everyone begins denying that he ever sported der Schnurrbart in the first place. Is Marc going insane or is he having an elaborate practical joke played on him?

Since it's a French film, I'm just going to go ahead and assume this is how it unfolds: a man is seen cutting his moustache off; the shot cuts to some doves flying in slow motion followed by a crying baby with the sound of a fire-truck siren dubbed over. *Fin*



JOHN KMECH AND RYAN HEISE
Doves of peace



ANDREW RURAK

Gearing up for some beer

BeerFest

Featuring performances by Murder City Sparrows, Red Ram and Side Step Fate
Friday, 9 February from 4-11pm
Saturday, 10 February from 2-11pm
Dinwoodie Lounge

SHAUN MCMULLEN

Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's hard to forget the first time you tried beer. That magic memory never leaves you, whether it was when your dad gave you a nip of his Bud when you were five or it was at your first official teenage party. Regardless, tasting beer for some is just the beginning of a long love affair, an affair that really blossoms during the years of postsecondary education. Undergrad life and beer are synonymous for many students.

Of course, there are those out there who don't think that they should stop at the same old lager their dad drank. These curious beer drinkers want to explore what's out there, be it an exotic brew from some equally exotic locale or something that was brewed with care right in their own hometown; they like to scratch the surface a little, find something that may not necessarily be marketed by a mega brewery. If this sounds like you, then the Edmonton International Beerfest will probably make your search a whole lot easier.

"What we're really trying to do here is to give people an opportunity to sample beer that they wouldn't normally go out and buy a six pack of,"

says BeerFest organizer Sean Farmer. "This is an opportunity to walk around and actually really develop your taste for beer instead of just trying the generic stuff that's mass produced and basically forced on you by every single brewery out there. We've got beer from India, the Phillipines, Guatemala, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, there's one from Thailand ... it's a diverse grouping of beers, not the normal stuff you'd find at any bar or just the run-of-the-mill liquour store at the end of every street."

Well, Molson will be there, but the company will be joined by many others. Festival goers will have the opportunity to sample 100 different beers from approximately 30 different vendors. Edmonton won't be ignored either, as local microbrewers Alley Kat and Maverick will also be featured.

And as if the beer alone was not enough, local music heroes Murder City Sparrows, Red Ram and Side Step Fate will provide the entertainment. In total you'll get a combination that sounds appealing, to not only the budding beer connoisseur, but maybe also to the fans of a good night out.

"Who doesn't like beer, right? If you like good beer, you like live entertainment and a good atmosphere, then you're going to have fun," Farmer says. "There's not very many people who like those things, especially in combination. It's a great atmosphere; there's great live entertainment, there's good food, good people are going to be at it and it's going to be a very laid back, fun event. So if you're into any of those three things, you're going to have fun."



Oh, beer. On a good night, you provide me with the courage to belt out crappy '80s tunes at karaoke, and on an even better night, you comfort me with warmth when I stumble home, making friends with hobos along the way. Really, we owe a lot to our frothy cousins, so it's only reasonable that we learn our beer lingo before tapping them.

Ale—Ale beer usually has unique flavours that are softer. This type of beer uses the top-down fermenting process to create intense flavours and aromas.

Aroma—This refers to the smell of a beer. When the beer experts taste a beer they describe the aroma as one of the most important characteristics of a beer.

Body—Body refers to the weight of the beer. A heavy beer like a stout would be described as being heavy in body while a lager generally has a lighter body.

Clean—A "clean" tasting beer is a beer that does not have strong smell or aftertaste.

Cream ale - A sweet, golden American-style beer with a high level of carbonation. Some are fermented with both ale and lager yeasts.

Crisp—Crisp describes a beer that has a smooth finish with minimal aftertaste. This crisp taste is common in many beers that are labelled "dry" or "dry-filtered."

Draught—Draught beer is beer taken directly

from the keg or storage vat and served to the customer in a beer glass, stein or mug. This beer is usually unpasteurized, helping to release more of the flavours and aromas of the beer.

Hoppy—When a beer is described as hoppy, it usually refers to an obvious hop smell or taste in the beer. For many, the term hoppy is a negative descriptor, while for others, it's what makes beer distinct.

India Pale Ale—very strong, hoppy pale ale, which originated in Britain for export to soldiers in India.

Lager—Lager beer has a crisp clean taste that is less intense than ale beer. Lager beers are the

typical beers brewed by North America companies. Lager beers use bottom-up fermenting. These beers include Pilsner, Amber Lager, Dark Lager and Bock.

Pale Ale—A fruity, milder version of England's India Pale Ale.

Pilsener—The most imitated style of lager in the world, it was perfected in 1842 in Pilsen, Bohemia. It's pale in colour with an assertive hop aroma and is highly carbonated.

Stout—An English and Irish style ale that is opaque black, smooth and creamy. It may be dry or sweet.



ANDREW RURAK



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

YOU SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND FAB Gallery's *Centrifugal* exhibit allows different cultures to share their views of art.

Connecting with outer circles

Centrifugal: Ideas From Different Cultures In Print

Runs until 24 February
FAB Gallery

KELSEY TANASIUKE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Immersing oneself in a different culture can be shocking, but for the latest FAB Gallery exhibition, entitled *Centrifugal: Ideas From Different Cultures In Print*, looking at the way another culture values and presents its art can also be quite surprising.

"In Japan, the public is a lot more aware of what printmaking is, culturally, and the history of the prints is much more present," says Sean Caulfield, an associate professor of printmaking and drawing here at the University of Alberta. "In Canada, its profile isn't as high. I think it just has to do with history and things like that. And again in a way I suppose that's part of what this show is about, too: trying to connect with the community and

showing what it offers the art world."

The show, which features a collection of works from 15 artists across the globe, came about as a result of combining two exhibitions that took place in Tokyo and Ohio.

"I thought [I'd] bring these two exhibitions together," Caulfield says. "Artists from Japan are coming. The U of A has a fairly long history of connection with Musashino Art University. The professor that was head of printmaking has visited before. So, the group of artists that are coming are actually people who haven't come before and represent a new generation of artists. We are delighted. I think it means that we're keeping that connection going."

"I remember when I was a student here ... the printmaking program brought in international artists to the department and it had a huge impact on my education. I got a broader kind of view on what art was and the opportunities that were out there."

But even where there is a connection, Caulfield explains that you're still going

to find a lot of cultural differences.

Ideas and connections spread in the art world, radiating and stretching themselves across time and space. And, although unplanned, *Centrifugal* only reiterates this fact.

"There was no underlying theme for [the exhibit] in terms of any kind of conceptual underpinning," Caulfield says. "However, I think if you see the show, there are a number of interesting connections that are set up. Often in the art world, there are themes that sort of float around internationally."

"There are lots of interesting connections, but it's also interesting to look at the different approaches, too," Caulfield continues. "I would definitely say there's a particular sensibility happening with the artists from Musashino University that's different than, say, the American artists. So I think as a viewer walks through the show, it's interesting to look at what connections there are and then what differences there are and then kind of speculate about why that's happening."

Not Saying not Juno material



AMANDA ASH

"SO4 has become overrated, overplayed and overhyped. The last thing they need is another unfortunate stroke of the ego that tells them what good little musicians they're being when they're really making most of us—those too scared to voice to the rest of Canada just how shitty SO4 is—quietly vomit."

My mother always told me that God rewards those who work hard. However, even God sometimes confuses the diligent with bottom-feeders, and thus there are always a few that end up stumbling upon good fortune by complete chance—like Shout Out Out Out Out, for example. The Edmonton-based electro/disco/rock outfit has just been nominated for a Juno Award, under the category of Alternative Album of the Year, and while the band may throw their arms in the air at this jubilant news, it only leaves me to ponder: does SO4's record really deserve a Juno?

SO4's *Not Saying / Just Saying* is definitely not the best piece of handy-work SO4 has produced. The album was drawn out, thin, unbelievably repetitive and just plain boring. With the exception of "Forever Indebted," there's nothing about SO4's July release that screamed Juno-worthy, and judging from the opinions held by friends and other local music critics—at least those who are in no way affiliated with the band or consequently swayed by bias—SO4 is nothing special to shout about.

I'm not saying that SO4 hasn't built up a strong fan base, can't get a sweaty crowd pulsating like a heart on cocaine or wasn't one of the pioneering groups that helped put Edmonton on the musi-

cal map, but what I am arguing is that SO4 hasn't risen to the height they have because of their genius. They're not that spectacular; they've just been hyped up.

Really, SO4's acclaim has been the result of a vicious chain reaction, which goes like this: by chance, an Edmonton band—SO4—finally gets a tiny bit of attention from Eastern Canada. Edmontonians then yell, "OMG attention! Squeal!" while flocking to SO4's shows and scooping CDs off shelves like they're canned beans during hurricane Katrina. The rest of Edmonton's music scene, most of which is undoubtedly more talented, continues to work its ass off while SO4's popularity snowballs into one egotistical mass. One magazine covers them because another newspaper has, one hipster attends their show because another hipster has, and so goes the domino effect until SO4 has been given the ultimate handjob: a Juno nomination.

Local supporters only vie for SO4 because, somewhere within that confusing-as-hell moniker, a subliminal message flashes saying, "I'm from Edmonton." Edmonton is a close-knit, supportive community, so when we see a fellow Edmonton group getting some attention, we're right behind them. However, despite Edmonton's natural instinct to backup everything it

breeds—think hockey—we're simply going about things the wrong way. We're giving bands attention just for the sake of getting Edmonton's name out there, not because they're actually worthy of respect.

If there's one Edmontonian that deserves a Juno, that artist is Cadence Weapon. His electro, hip-hop style is a million times more innovative than SO4's random drum kicks and synth squeals. Then again, Cadence Weapon doesn't need a Juno to prove himself. He already did that with the Polaris Prize nomination. And how about the rest of the nominees SO4 is up against? Malajube, Islands, City and Colour, and Chad VanGalen—these guys have much, much more original music up their sleeves and actually deserve to be in the category.

SO4 has become overrated, overplayed and overhyped. The last thing they need is another unfortunate stroke of the ego that tells them what good little musicians they're being when they're really making most of us—those too scared to voice to the rest of Canada just how shitty SO4 is—quietly vomit. But as my mother said, everyone gets what they deserve; SO4 will soon look in the mirror and realize their emo hair isn't going to make them millions of dollars. Really, I'm just saying what everyone else isn't saying.

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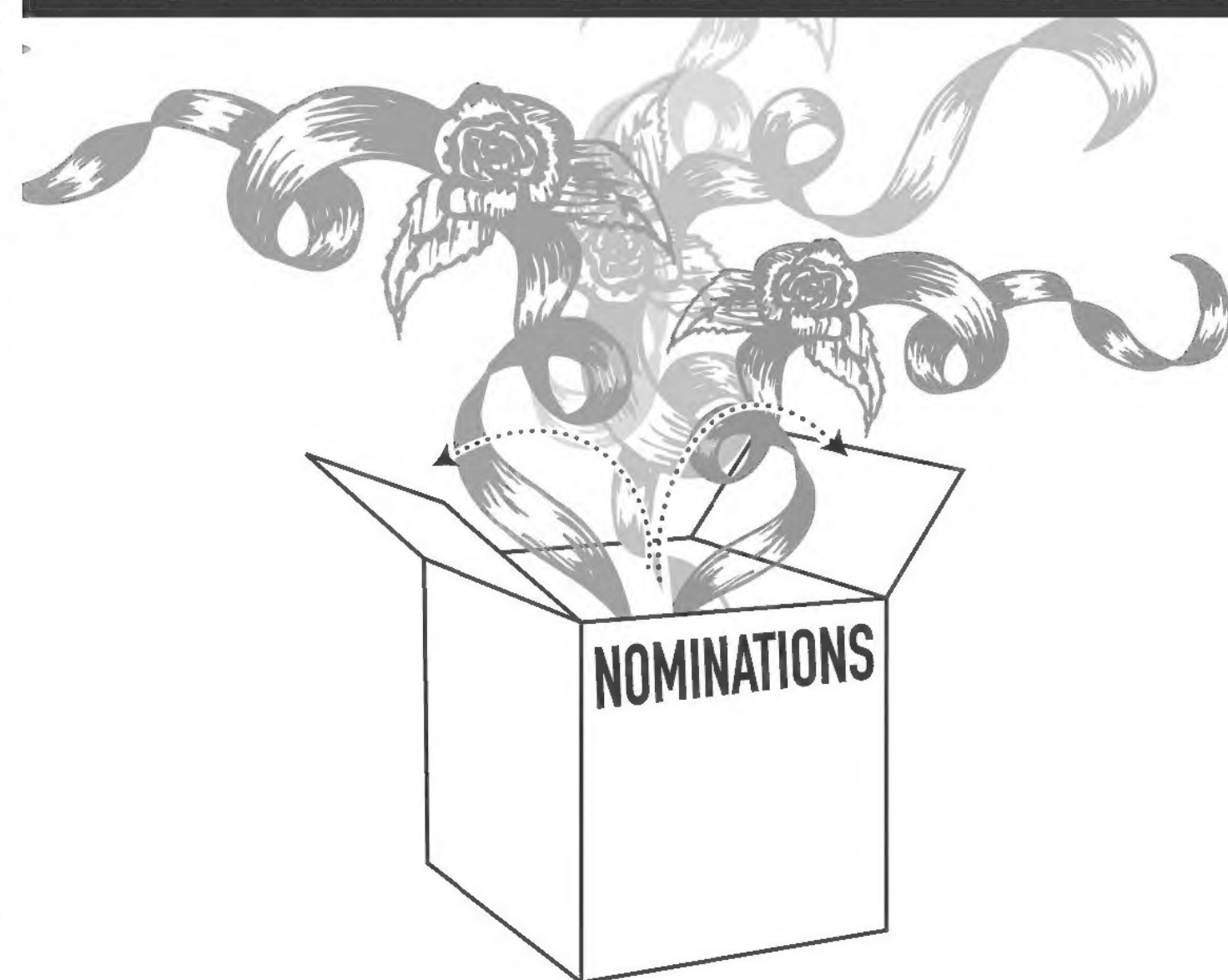
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Canadian spin-offs of TV shows like *Deal or No Deal* are shameful



RYAN HEISE

to be Canadian knowing that Ben Mulroney is flaunting our nation's karaoke singers instead of Ryan Seacrest.

But it isn't even always as blatant as the same shows being repackaged for distribution above the 49th parallel. CTV's *Whistler* is essentially *The OC* with snow—same horrible acting, same melodrama and same overtly ridiculous storylines. I've got a few ideas for CTV: how about a *Desperate Housewives*-type show set in Peterborough, Ontario? There's nothing like the relaxing vibes of cottage country to make people commit adultery. Or how about a gritty, serialized crime-drama on the mean streets of Edmonton's inner city? That's got Gemini award written all over it.

We've already commercialized our identity through "patriotic" advertisements for shitty beer, Tim Hortons—which has been American-owned since 1995—and the fact that we're the only legitimate television market for professional hockey in the world. Canadians shouldn't feel the need to define themselves and their entertainment by adding a colon followed by *Canadian Edition* to everything that's popular south of the border.

It would be nice if television was as easy to break into as music, what with the Canadian music scene being as prominent—both nationally and internationally—as it is. However, we're slowly plodding along with shows such as *Corner Gas*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *The Rick Mercer Report*. They may not be the greatest programs, but at least they're legitimately Canadian and getting some exposure.

We need to stop trying to keep up with the Jones' in regards to television. Canadian entertainment industries may not have the capital to produce first-rate shows, but re-branding American atrocities to give "the little guy," a chance to strike it rich or gain national fame for six months isn't something we should be proud of.

Howie, tell the banker to fuck off. No deal.

Following the Super Bowl—one of the most hyper-American televised events, right behind NASCAR, war and poorly run federal elections—Global Television kicked off a week-long run of the NBC prime-time game show *Deal or No Deal*. The catch? The contestants, the audience and the cash prizes were all Canadian.

This harkens back to the short run in 2000 of an all-Canadian version of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*. The only real difference is that Regis Philbin's hosting duties were dumped onto former CTV personality Pamela Wallin, while Howie Mandel, a Canadian citizen, is hosting both versions of *Deal Or No Deal*.

But while the questionable selection of hosts for these ice-locked versions is surely an issue that needs to be addressed, the bigger concern lies with why people feel Canadian versions of these shows need to be created in the first place.

As a nation, does Canada feel so left out that we need to create five-day runs of other countries' intellectual property to make ourselves feel like a part of some global community?

If *American Idol* is already scraping the bottom of the barrel in a country with a population of around 300 million, what's the point of having the exact same contest for what's essentially the same demographic but in a market one-tenth the size? Not only is it a pretty ridiculous competition in the first place, but having *Canadian Idol* be its own entity doesn't make much sense. I, personally, don't feel any more proud



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Romi Mayes a lone traveller

Romi Mayes

With The Wheat Pool
Friday, 9 February at 9pm
Starlite Room

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Whether she's at home strumming away on her guitar or on stage playing to a sold-out crowd, passionate and talented Canadian folk singer Romi Mayes admits that as much as she loves performing, some of her favorite moments come from spending time with her seven-year-old daughter, who's a budding musician in her own right.

"One time I said to [my daughter], 'It's going to be great. Maybe one day you can be in my band,' and she looked at me and said, 'No mom, maybe one day you can be in my band,'" Mayes says with a laugh. "She plays harmonica and guitar and she sings. When my friends come over to jam with me, she just picks up a guitar and joins [in]."

Despite the fact that being a single mom can sometimes be distracting when it comes to her work, motherhood hasn't seemed to slow Mayes down. She's just released her second solo album, *Sweet Something Steady*, an eclectic mix of the folk, blues and country music styles, and in 2006, the album earned Mayes a nomination for Best Songwriter of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

"Instead of writing about lost loves I write about missing somebody and it ends up being my daughter."

ROMI MAYES

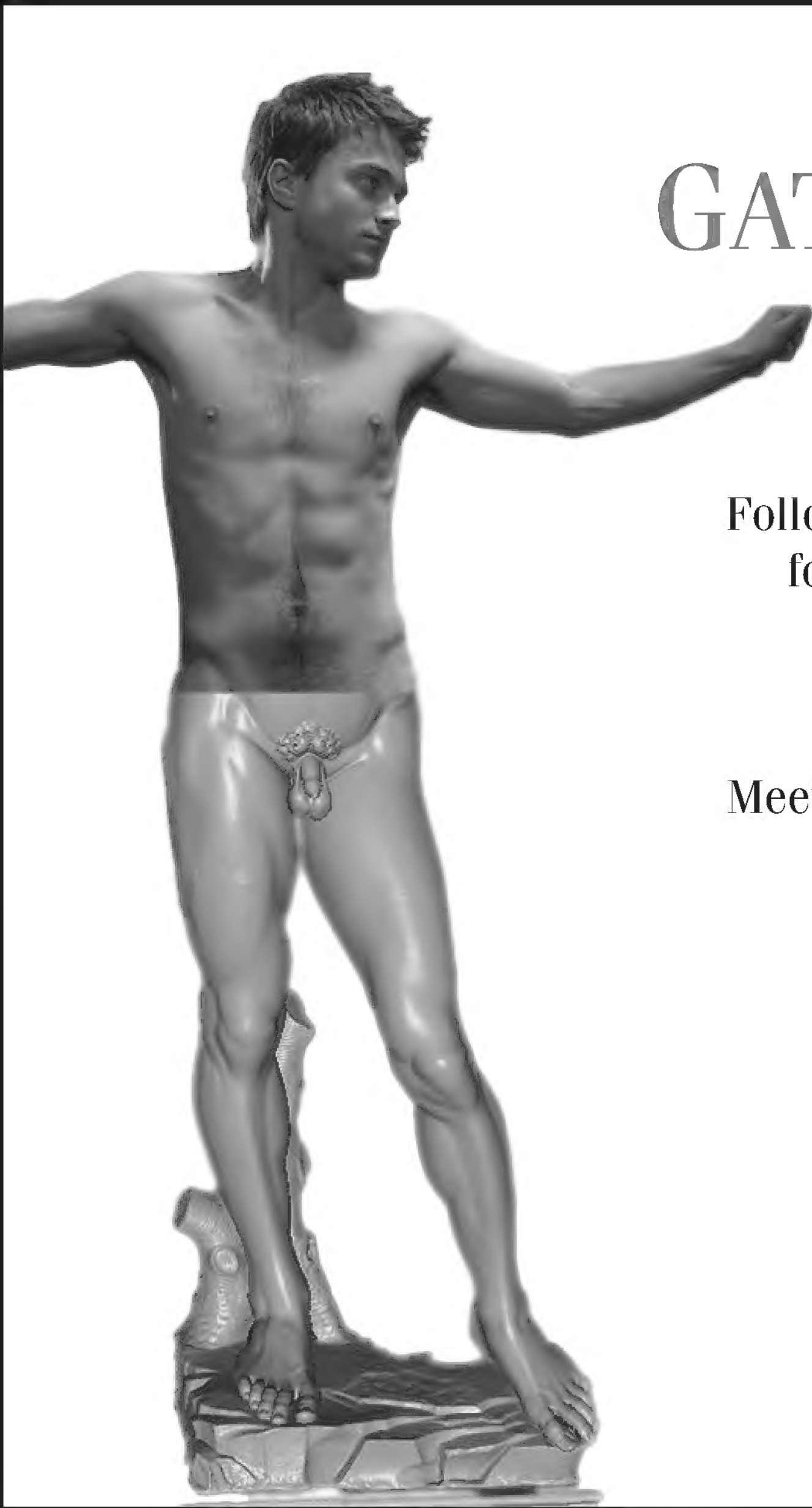
Today, though, the Winnipeg native and previous Juno nominee says that things weren't always so easy; she can recall a time when she was just getting into music and had almost nothing.

"I left home when I was 18 and

hitchhiked across Canada a few times. At that time I had a cassette tape of myself and a friend of mine. I thought that's how you toured. I wasn't really sure how to do it. I would show up in a little town at a pub or a bar with my guitar and this cassette tape. I'd say, 'Here's my tape; listen to it and I'll play tonight if you give me 50 bucks. But I need the tape back,' I only had one tape," Mayes laughs.

Touring has always been a large part of Mayes' career; she's played more than 400 shows in the past two years alone. But despite all her time on the road, Mayes says that her daughter is often what keeps her going as an artist.

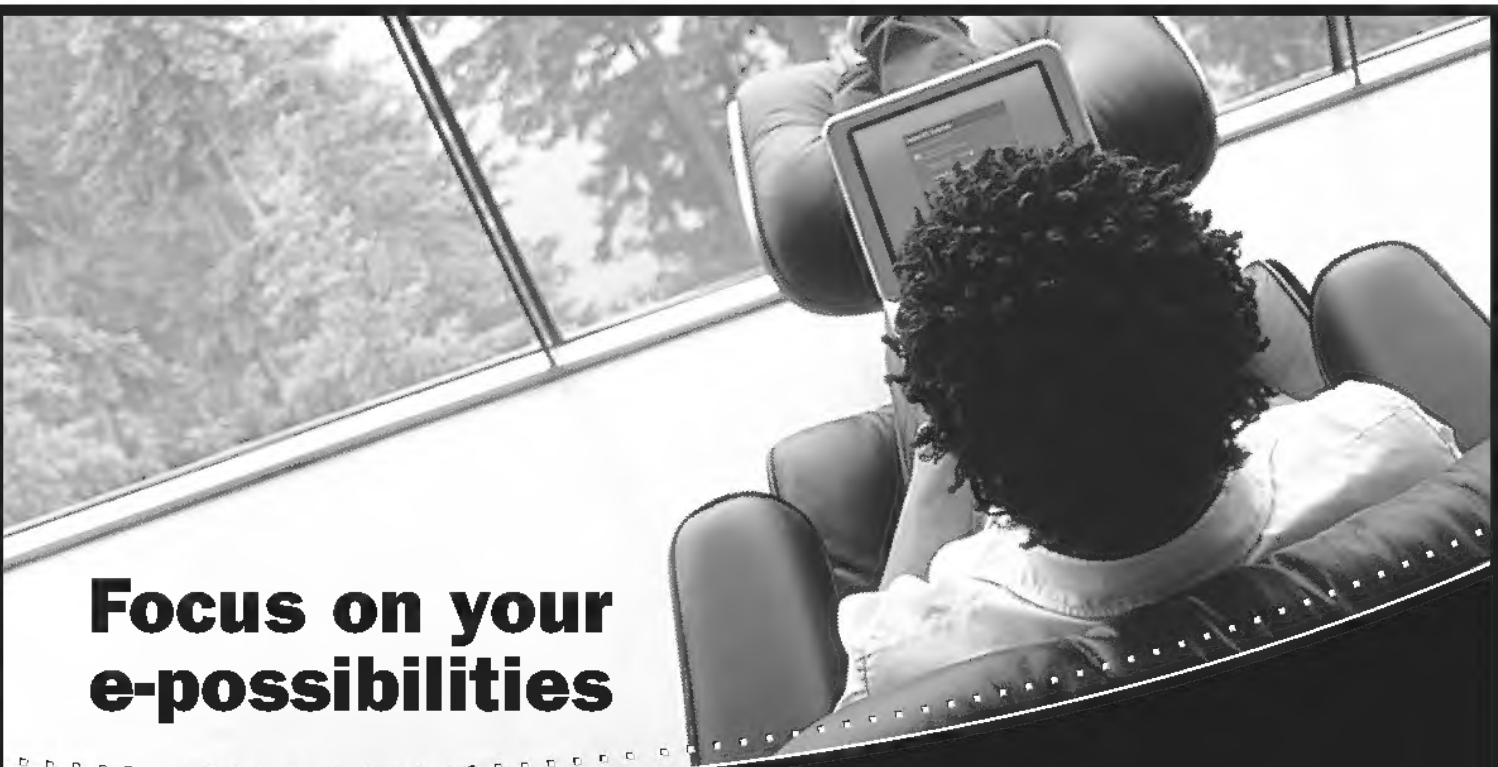
"I've been single for a few years, so I don't really have any good love stories to write about," Mayes reflects. "It's kind of challenging being on the road, away from her. Instead of writing about lost loves I write about missing somebody and it ends up being my daughter. I guess that's why it's easier to be single; I sort of have that unconditional love thing going on already."



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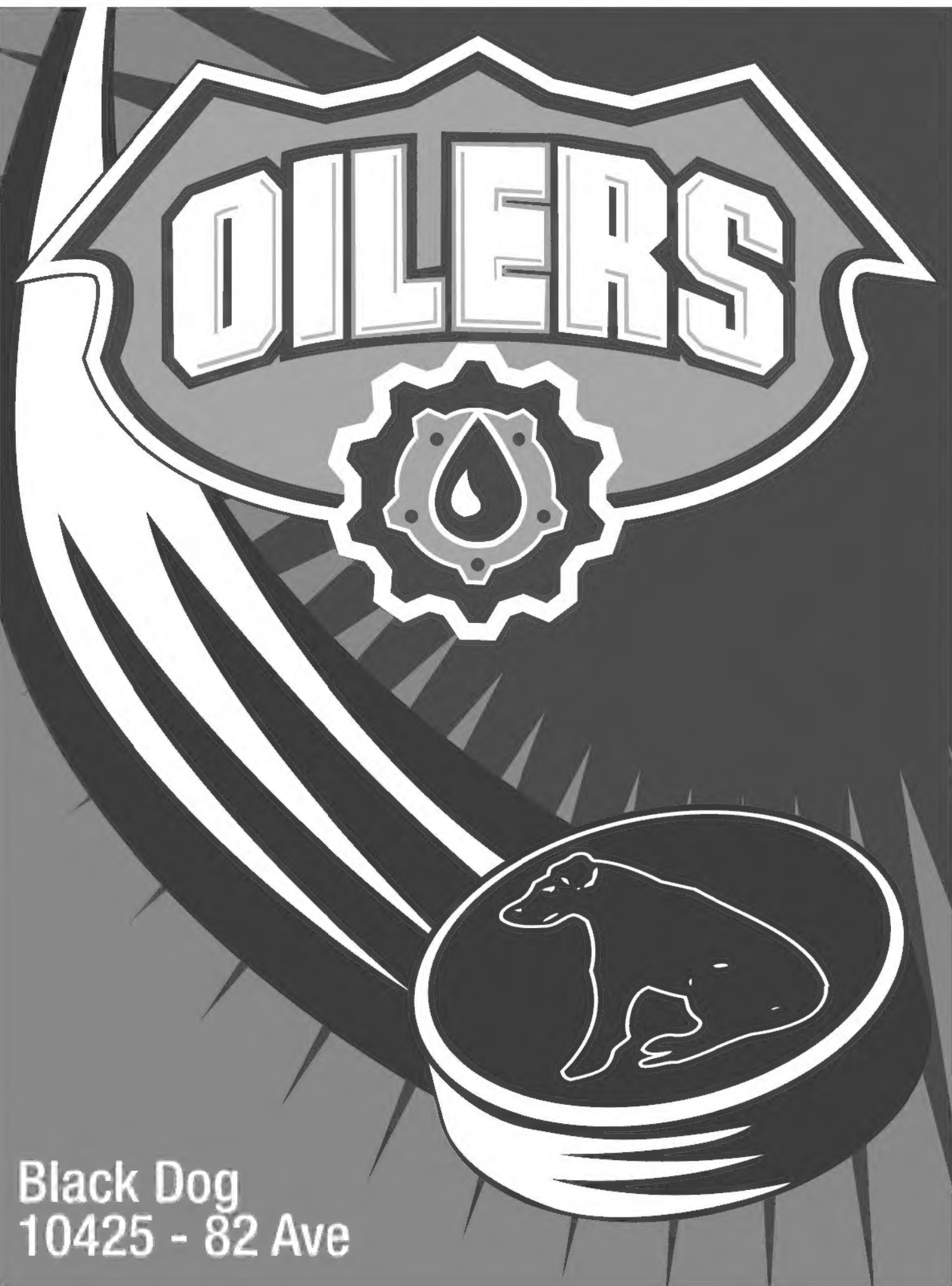
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www.campusrec.ualberta.ca

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Burnin' for some dirty music

Vancouver-based klezmer musician Geoff Berner wants to revive the politics and anger in music, all while singing about female fertility and booze

Geoff Berner

With AA Sound System and Manraygun
Saturday, 10 February at 8pm
The Powerplant

CARLA KAVINTA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

To most people, accordions conjure up images of German folk singers sporting red toques, high-waisted khaki shorts and suspenders, playing on the cobblestone street corners of Eastern Europe. However, songwriter/accordionist Geoff Berner not only defies these stereotypes with a unique sound and intriguing lyrics, but also paves the road towards greater appeal for accordion folk artists with his flair for punk.

Labelling his music as the "new Jewish-Canadian drinking songs," Berner is currently dabbling in a style of traditional Jewish music known as klezmer—popular music played mostly at Jewish weddings. His latest record, *Wedding Dance Of The Widow* is the second in a trilogy of klezmer-inspired albums. But according to Berner, the theme for this record is quite different than the first instalment.

"Yeah, the first [album] was *Whiskey Rabbi* and that was more about drinking," Berner explains. "These songs mention drinking as well because drinking and music kind of go together, but this one is more about women."

"I was pretty deep into studying popular klezmer, [and] the wedding theme kept popping up again and again, so it seemed like something I should address," Berner says. "I just took this theme of the wedding and the bride and tried to think of what that really brought it to mind for me. Bride. Women. Both are symbols of happiness and fertility and that made me think about how, in Canada, we have so much happiness and fertility and prosperity, but it's tempered by the fact that our happiness is built on the misfortune of others. You know, like the fact that we stole the whole country from the First Nations and



everything."

Clearly, this Vancouver native has no problem expressing his opinions, and he does just that throughout the album. Some may consider Berner's lyrics to be controversial or even offensive, but he believes that leaving the grit in his music is essential to keeping the klezmer tradition alive.

"Well, I think there's some sex, violence and politics in the record, but then there's sex, violence and politics in the Bible," Berner says. "So, anybody who could be offended by my stuff should read about things like who Noah slept with and stuff like that."

"I guess people have an idea of tradition and it tends to be a mid-20th century, middle-class idea of respectability more than anything that has to do with real tradition," Berner continues. "In this post-war era, people want

to be respectable and middle class so anything kind of dirty or difficult is often leached out of traditional music, you know?"

Not only is Berner self-assured in defending his "dirty" music and lyrics, but he also suggests that the modern portrayal of traditional folk music is offensive in its own right.

"You see a lot of these at the [Edmonton] Folk Festival: these happy, technically proficient folk bands singing about pretty much nothing except what a happy day they're having or whatever, and there's no dirt or politics or anger in any of it," Berner says. "And to me, that's actually an act of cultural defacement—when people present folk music that way. So I'd say that by keeping the dirt in the music, I'm staying truer to tradition than people who just bowdlerize traditional music."

Hotel Dusk a sexy seductress

Hotel Dusk: Room 215

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RAMIN OSTAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hotel Dusk: Room 215 is a sexy dame. She's like nothing I've ever played. Everything about her is bohemian, like one of those *Choose Your Own Adventure* books where each turn of the page is potentially fatal. This time, though, I'm not flipping pages—even though *Hotel Dusk* makes me read my DS like it's a book.

I'm given a name—Kyle Hyde—and a past I can't forget. I'm an ex-

copper, canned from the force three years ago because of my search for my former partner, a man I trusted and who betrayed me. Now I use a gig as travelling salesman to look for my wrong-doer. I end up in this dump, *Hotel Dusk*, where every customer has a story and every story brings me closer to my goal.

Hotel Dusk is like a game of cat and mouse, letting me control every move with the touch screen while the other screen shows me all that I'm allowed to see. There's a simple beauty in its visual features, where three-dimensional backgrounds push forward one-dimensional characters. Every colour is in a darker shade and every character looks hand drawn, like a graphic novel with animated frames—a perfect ambience for this

tale of dysfunction.

Indeed, this saucy dame never lets me feel like I'm behind the wheel, as if I'm an action figure driving a remote control car. Every detail of this story slips out at an arduous pace, like water drops from a leaky faucet. I would have turned my back on it after a few hours if the narrative hadn't been so intriguing, my curiosity begging me to continue. Each character drawn on this tapestry of self-loathing has his or her unique and well-developed struggle. And they don't give you arbitrary puzzles to solve.

Fortunately, this story does have the satisfying ending it needs to satiate my infatuation. *Hotel Dusk* will stay in your mind long after she's done with you, kind of like your first love.



FILE PHOTOS: LEFT: PETE YEE; MIDDLE, RIGHT: WEIYANG LIU

INSTANT CLASSIC A lot of history resides between Trinity Western and Alberta as the two face off this weekend in a battle of two of the country's top squads; they have met twelve time in two years.

Clash of the Volleyball Titans

Golden Bears continue to move past last year's upset at the hands of Trinity Western; Spartans trying to become that team again

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

Heading into the final weekend of the volleyball regular season, one lesson can be gleaned from the last 20 weeks of competition: pre-season predictions rarely come true.

Faced with the prospect of losing five of his starters from last season, Bears head coach Terry Danyluk admitted that, in September, he would have never thought that his squad would be coming into the final weekend of the season with an undefeated 16-0 record—and neither did the “experts” who wrote off the Bears before the first serve of the season.

“I knew we had lots of good players coming in; the thing was they hadn't really played together as a team. It wasn't really a question of how good we were going to be in the end; it was how long it was going to take,” Danyluk said. “Coming in, Trinity and Manitoba were the teams everybody thought would be the best teams and everybody had kind of written us off as [having] a rebuilding year. Other teams were more senior, and being undefeated wasn't even something that crossed my mind, but this group of guys has really bonded together quickly for the number of new faces that we had.”

Alberta is striving to finish their season with a perfect record for the first time since 1996/97 this weekend against the Trinity Western Spartans—a team whose season reinforces the inaccuracy of pre-season

predictions. Experts figured the Spartans—with five starters returning from a National Championship squad—would cruise to top spot in the country, but the defending gold medallists have fallen from pre-season favourites to the third-ranked team in the country with an unspectacular 12-4 record heading into the final weekend of the regular season. Spartans head coach Ron Pike acknowledged that he didn't foresee Alberta's successes or the struggles his team would endure.

“I try not to have too many expectations [before the season]. You can always guess here and there, but the reality is that Terry Danyluk is a great coach and he runs a great program,” Pike said. “I wouldn't say that I expected [Alberta to be undefeated], but I am for sure not surprised by it.”

On the other hand, Pike certainly didn't expect TWU to be battling for fourth place in the division.

“There are a lot of factors that go into sports and we're dealing with some of the tougher side of it right now with respect to injuries,” he said. “It affects your rhythm and we're definitely not where we had hoped we would be, but in sports you deal with the cards you got and put your best out on the floor.”

“You can't judge [TWU] by their record at this point,” Danyluk added. “You can't count them out. I think that their 12-4 record is actually pretty good given the fact that they've had to play with a few key guys injured—that just shows that

they're a program with a strong base of mature guys.”

While each team appreciates this weekend for its playoff implications, neither team, no matter how hard they try, can forget about the history behind these matches. Over the last two years, this has become the biggest rivalry in CIS men's volleyball, perhaps even in all varsity sports. Alberta and Trinity have met in the last two national championship finals, with Alberta taking gold in '05 and Trinity exacting revenge last year, shocking the favoured Bears in straight sets. Both head coaches admitted that it's hard to shake that background and focus just on the weekend.

“There's always a history there. You definitely try to focus on what's going on at present but it can be tough,” Pike said. “To be honest, the history doesn't favour us a great deal, so we're trying to forget it.”

“Everybody knows we played them in the last two championships, and the majority of the guys who are playing for us now have been on those two teams,” Danyluk added. “I don't think that they're going to forget that it's Trinity Western and that we're sitting at 1-1 in national finals. Rivalry is going to be there and that brings respect—I think it's that respect that drives us to play tough against them.”

Though Danyluk downplays the rivalry that's developed between the two teams, the question still lingers: why did the 2005/06 Bears go 34-1 on

the season only to fold in the national finals last year? Several months of reflection have passed and Danyluk still ponders how his team that was so prepared couldn't beat the Spartans.

“We had one bad day; the fact is that the one day happened to be the game of the year,” Danyluk said. “I'm not sure why it happened. I still to this day don't know why Trinity played the best game they ever played in their lives and we played the worst game we played in our lives. How do you pinpoint that? A week prior we were playing our best volleyball, so what difference did a week make? I don't know.”

Perhaps, in the end, it will be the Bears' youth this season that will carry them into Nationals, maybe to spite the pre-season predictions that the young faces would have to rebuild the program.

“As an older team, last year's team had so many things to think about. Going into the national finals, half the guys were thinking: should I go pro? Should I go to the national team? We weren't just thinking about winning the national final and that might have been part of the reason we had the down-slide,” Danyluk said. “This year's team I would hope would be different because a lot of them are just getting their first experience of what it's like to be a Golden Bear as a starter.”

The rematch will begin Friday at 6:30pm in the Main Gym and continue the next night at 8pm. It will be the final regular season games for both teams.

OWNAGE

While they're even in National Championship banners over the past two seasons, Alberta and TWU have been anything but equals on the court:

- Alberta is 11-1 against the Spartans since September 2004, having met four times in each of the past two regular seasons and matching up in the Canada West playoffs and the CIS National Finals in both seasons.

- The Bears have taken 33 sets in those twelve games, while the Spartans have mustered only eleven, including three in last year's gold medal match.

- Six of the eleven Alberta wins have come in straight sets. Three of them have gone the full length, to five sets, including the 2004/05 national final.

- Alberta features six players who saw action in last year's final match: Adam Kaminski, Justin Wong, Joel Schmuland, Derek Prudfoot, Thomas Jarmoc and Brock Pehar.

- Seth Schalk, Josh Howatson, Jeff Stel, Andrew Hawkes and Steve Rogalsky represent the hold-overs from the TWU team that spanked the Bears to win national gold.



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Pandas face TWU in battle for seeding in volleyball playoffs

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

As the Pandas volleyball team (14-4) heads into their last weekend of the season, playing against Trinity Western University (15-3), they can be assured of at least one thing: they will compete in the Canada West playoffs a week from tomorrow. However, it's still anyone's guess as to who Alberta will face, as none of the playoff seeds have been decided.

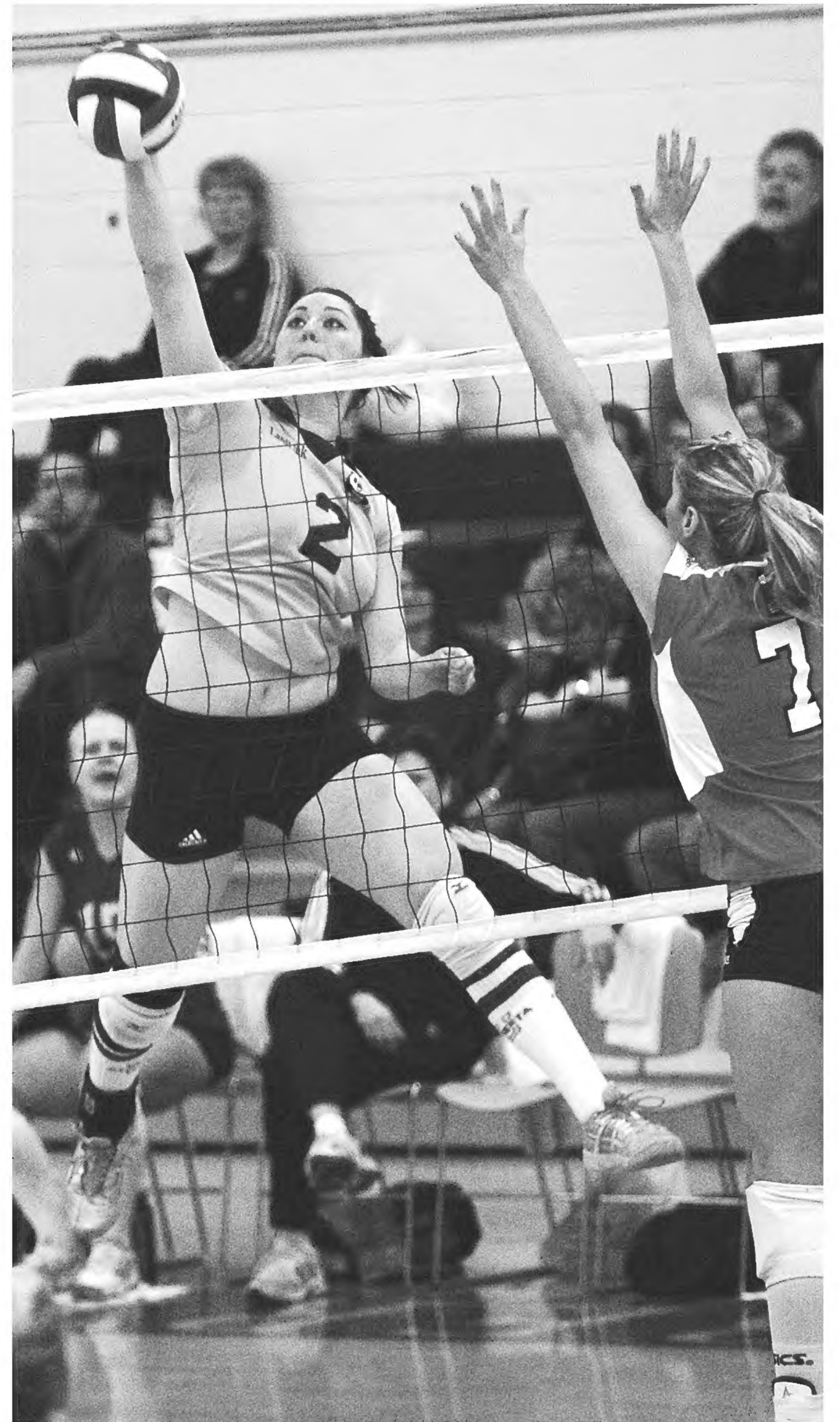
Just three wins separate the first-place Manitoba Bisons (16-2) from the fifth-place Calgary Dinos (13-5)—with TWU, the Pandas and UBC (14-6) in between. With a pair of wins, Alberta could finish tied atop the leaderboard with Manitoba, who would be ranked first, having won more sets against Alberta while splitting their four meetings this season. However, Alberta could just as easily lose both games and sit tied with UBC at the back of the pack.

Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler noted that, with the level of parity in Canada West, the standings were bound to be tight at the end of the season, and hopes that her team can capitalize on their last opportunity to put themselves in the best possible position going into the playoffs.

"[The playoff battle] puts more at stake than maybe we would've once thought," Eisler said. "That's partly because of the Calgary losses in early December—it's enabled us to be in a position where we are in control of our own destiny. As far as mindset goes, it doesn't add any more pressure or change the way we approach things; we've approached every match this year feeling like we needed to win, and we wanted to achieve the goals we set before us. For us, it's very consistent with our approach, and it's really exciting to know how much is on the line."

Perhaps the reason the importance of this weekend doesn't seem to phase the Pandas is because they're consistently playing as though every game carried the kind of pressure of a playoff game. Eisler explained that her team's been playing with a playoff mentality throughout the second half of the season, and welcomes the challenge that any team will present to them when the real postseason begins.

"We've shown [that we're] a team that really thrives under pressure, and we know, obviously, with the



FILE PHOTO: JOHANN BROWN

HARD-HITTING Jocelyn Blair (2) hopes that she can smack the ball very forcefully, and that doing so will put her team into the playoffs with a high seed.

playoffs that the pressure just mounts; it doesn't dissipate," she said. "Our team performs well under it, and we're not afraid of anyone. We've seen all of the teams in the West and there isn't really anyone to fear, but we respect all of them."

This weekend, Alberta faces a Spartans' team that's also jousting for position in the Canada West playoffs and, with two wins against the Pandas, could potentially finish in sole possession of first place, should Manitoba falter.

"They're a team that's very well balanced across the board, and there

aren't really any glaring weaknesses—you just have to try to match them punch for punch, and see who holds up at the end," Eisler said. "We're going to have to serve well, get them out of system and defend. They have a very good offence—one that works its way around the block pretty well, so backcourt will be critical. As well, their power-hitter Jodi Schaufele is very dynamic, so we should see a lot of balls."

The Pandas close out the regular season at the Main Gym on Friday night at 8pm, and Saturday night at 6:30pm.

SPORTS SHORTS

by Paul Owen

Bears Basketball

The hardwood Bears (13-7) head south to Lethbridge for their final games of the season. One win over the bottom-dwelling Pronghorns (6-14) will secure top spot in the division for Alberta. Of course, should Saskatchewan (12-8) lose one to Calgary (10-10) this weekend, then Alberta will be guaranteed first, regardless of what they do.

Pandas Basketball

The ladies (14-6) also head to Lethbridge (3-17) for their final games of the season. The Pandas will need a sweep of the 'Horns and Saskatchewan (15-5) to lose

one game in Calgary against the Dinos (13-7) in order to take first place and receive a first-round playoff bye.

Pandas Hockey

The defending national champs (19-3-0) take to the ice against the UBC Thunderbirds (8-13-1) this weekend in Prince George, as the T-Birds continue to wait for their home facilities to finish being rebuilt/renovated. Prince George is a ponderous choice, as it puts UBC at a severe disadvantage: the travel from Edmonton is considerably shorter than it is from Vancouver. Also, the Prince George Coliseum is quite cavernous, and if the Pandas can't draw here, they certainly aren't going to be able to drag in fans in northern BC.

Wrestling

The wrestling teams will be crossing the border this week to partake in the Dave

Schultz International in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Schultz was a highly decorated American wrestler who died in 1996. He won gold in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Sure those medals don't mean much because the Eastern Bloc boycotted, but it's still Olympic gold.

Track and Field

The runners and throwers and jumpers head to Regina this weekend for the Wheat City Invitational on Friday and Saturday. As with all teams who have to head to the Queen City, they have our sympathy.

Shorts

Amanda Ash's microfibre bikini-briefs sound like they were made at that new nanotech building. Of course, what cut they were spawned a five-minute debate as to how much ass must be shown in order to qualify as bikini briefs.



MIKE OTTO

HANGING ON BY A THREAD It's hard to win, even against Lethbridge, if you're getting burned like Brian Woolger is.

Ice Bears in recovery after sweep

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

Before the streak-stopping double-header that was last weekend's sweep at the hands of Lethbridge, the Bears hockey team was in pretty good shape. Alberta (16-4-4) was six points up on Saskatchewan for first overall in Canada West, had locked up the Mountain Division for the eighth-straight year and were ready to set the rest of the season on cruise control.

The Bears set the dial but forgot to tell somebody to take the wheel, blowing both games, and a three-goal lead Saturday night. Their conference lead shrunk to two points and now there are rumblings that this late season glitch is a warning sign for the post-season.

None of those rumblings are coming from the Bears, however, who look at last weekend's performance as a chance to regroup, refocus and get back to what has made them the most successful team of the past decade.

"I don't think it's a set back; I think it's a learning situation for us. [Last weekend] showed us that, unlike the other teams in our conference, we're not mentally playoff-ready," Alberta head coach Eric Thurston said. "But

if we stay to our system—and not freelance—we can be a very successful club."

"You always have to look at the positives after a weekend like that," Bears assistant coach Serge Lajoie added. "Some players weren't ready to work, and the weekend was a lesson that you have to show every opponent the same level of respect and prepare your mindset before each game."

This late in the season, ideally, teams want to be slowly creeping their way into championship form by refining their systems, re-energizing their top scorers by playing the depth guys, and getting their goalie rested and ready for the crucial games that lay ahead. With the setback against the Pronghorns, the Bears coaching staff is looking at this weekend's Battle of Alberta as an opportunity to deal with their shortcomings and work on the little things.

"This whole week, [the coaching staff] has worked hard at getting positive efforts out of our guys so that we have a good first period in the first game this weekend," Lajoie explained. "This weekend will be a defining weekend for us."

"Developing good team habits and execution of the system is important," Thurston echoed. "It has already

started this week in practice and we hope it will start to roll as we build to have many successful weekends."

For most, the debacle against Lethbridge was a shock and a reminder that you can never get too comfortable in Canada West. For the Bears, it's serving as a chance to look at the other side of the coin.

"We have the personnel and the players to be effective," Lajoie said. "We think of it as a flashlight: if you shine the light at your feet, you can never look too far ahead. The key is to get everyone looking in the same direction and committed to the system because we have the personnel to be successful."

Thurston added that it's also important for the Bears to remember their identity as a team that uses their work ethic to let their superior talent take effect.

"We are a skilled team, but we have to remember that hard work will always win out; we have to take pride in competing and winning those one-on-one battles," he said.

The action gets under way at 7:30pm on Friday night at Clare Drake Arena, and the second game will go at 7pm in Calgary. The latter will be Alberta's last road game of the season, where the Bears have gone 9-5-0.

Yo Brett Favruh, it's time to retire, man



NICK FROST

I love watching hall-of-fame calibre athletes at the peak of their career as much as the next sports fanatic. However, some of these athletes develop an annoying habit as they near the end of their glory days: ignoring the signs that say they should retire. Michael Jordan did it a few years back during his stint with the Wizards; Roger Clemens is currently in the midst of his on-and-off tenure with the Houston Astros, and now Green Bay Packers' quarterback Brett Favre is officially following in their footsteps.

Earlier this week, the aging field general—whose heyday in the mid-90s has long since passed—announced that he would be coming back for another painstaking season of leading a bunch of relative youngsters to another mediocre record in one of the NFL's weakest divisions. Of course this comes as a shock after he spent the last two seasons talking about retiring. He even toyed with our emotions by shedding a tear and whimpering about how

great of a career it had been after Green Bay's last game of the season against the Chicago Bears.

It can't possibly be money that keeps some of these once-great, over-aged wonders hanging on because, let's face it—unless their name is Darren McCarty—athletes have enough of it to use rolls of 20s instead of toilet paper. It could possibly be, as the old cliché goes, for the love of the game—but no amount of passion for any sport can overcome how frustrating it must be to play for a perennial loser.

The real reason that rest of these faded, worn-out athletes stick around is complete selfishness—and why not? I mean, if you were once the best player in your league, but suddenly declined in performance to the point that everyone made little snide comments about it behind your back, wouldn't you stick around for a few years longer than you should just to shut them up? Of course you would. You'd be an egotistical asshole, but you'd be a rich, famous and talented egotistical asshole.

In Favre's case, though, his decision will ultimately be more of a detriment to the Packers than anything. The quarterback position is generally regarded as the most important in football, and by not stepping aside, Favre isn't allowing the Packers a proper chance to rebuild—something that, clearly,

the team should be in the process of doing. Most of their main roster consists of players that are only in their first few seasons—Favre being one of the few exceptions. Favre's constant "I'm not returning; okay, I am returning," routine keeps the Packers thinking that they're secure at that position when, really, they should be grooming Aaron Rodgers into the starting role, much like Cincinnati did with Carson Palmer.

I'm not trying to imply that Brett Favre wasn't once a great quarterback—in fact, he's probably one of the best of all time. But this is still the perfect time for Brett to retire: he ended this past season on a high note with an emphatic win over the NFC Champions, got an average team back to the .500 mark and did it at Lambeau field in front of all the cheeseheads. That's about as good of a finish as he could've have possibly had at this point in his career—and yet, for some reason, he decided that one more year would do the trick (if, in fact, this is his last year). Well, he's committed, and as long as he's around, he will continue to have to try and prove the naysayers—like myself—wrong. And if somehow he does manage to raise the Pack back from the dead and take them to the Super Bowl, I'll eat my hat—or, better yet, one of those stupid cheese-shaped hats.

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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

RUNNING ON EMPTY Experts warn Alberta's environment cannot sustain the continually expanding oil development.

Oil sands pumping problems: report

TOM WAGNER
News Writer

In 2005, every Albertan received \$400 in the form of a prosperity bonus after high oil prices and increased production created a surplus in provincial coffers. Although many people enjoyed the extra cash, some say that there was a heavy environmental cost behind the \$1.4 billion program.

According to Simon Dyer, researcher for the University of Alberta's Pembina Institute and co-author of the report, *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, Alberta is facing a serious environmental crisis due to oil sands development in the northern part of the province.

Many wide-ranging environmental concerns associated with the oil sands are discussed in the report, including the high usage of fresh water for mineral recovery and the possible regional extinction of many indigenous animal species. Dyer called attention to what he said the poor track record of oil companies in reclaiming affected land, and most alarmingly, a developed area the size of Florida, if all the available oil sands in Alberta are utilized.

"The anticipated impacts associated

with unconstrained in ... oil sands development are so great that no further oil sands leases should be awarded or projects approved until a management plan is in place to protect the regional environment," read the report.

David Swann, Liberal MLA for Calgary Mountain View and the shadow minister for the environment, agrees with the report.

"[The government] has basically allowed for the whole [oil sands] area to be sacrificed," Swann remarked. "It's a moonscape type of image, a theme from outer space."

Both men agree the oil sands realistically could be more environmentally friendly through a slowing of development, the creation of protected areas for species in the affected areas, and increased levels of resource management by both the Alberta government and industry.

"Although the oil sands are extremely polluting, it is possible for companies to be carbon neutral if they invest in certain projects," Dyer explained. "However, the level of management needs to be at the level of magnitude."

But according to the Government of

Alberta's oil sands information website, every initiative is currently being taken to ensure that the procedure of extracting and processing the oil sands is done in the most economically efficient and environmentally friendly way possible.

"Working through the Alberta Energy Research Institute, the Alberta government is committed to a collaborative approach to spur new technology and innovation programs that will reduce the impact of greenhouse gases and other emissions, and reduce the consumption of water and gas," the website stated.

Nevertheless, though hopeful, Swann said that with the current government's track record, it appears they are content to do nothing at all.

"This government is itself addicted to oil. They're not prepared to slow down or change the way we do business up there," Swann said.

Swann and Dyer warned that if nothing is done, the costs will be steep. According to *Death by a Thousand Cuts*, the oil sands region—where boreal forest once stood—is on track to qualify as the world's largest open-pit mining complex.

Québec's tuition freeze under fire

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

The Canadian Federation of Students rallied together yesterday for their National Day of Action, but while the focus in most provinces was the reduction in fees, some in Québec were calling for just the opposite.

Québec is in its 13th year of a tuition freeze that has the cost of attending a postsecondary institution at \$1668 a year—the lowest in the country—while the national average sits significantly higher at \$4347. Students in Alberta pay above the national average at \$4828 per year.

Chris Mota, director of media relations at Concordia University, explained that in addition to the tuition freeze, government funding has also decreased, creating financial crises across the board at Québec's postsecondary institutions.

"There's are no options open to us; all the options are closed—that's the problem," Mota said. "If we can't raise tuitions, we can't raise tuitions; if the government won't give us money, they won't give us money."

Morton Mendelson, Deputy Provost

(Student Life and Learning) at McGill University, said that McGill is calling for a gradual tuition increase over three years to match the national average.

"The current low tuition in Québec amounts to a government subsidy of the middle class and the upper-middle class," Mendelson said.

Mendelson and Mota agreed that there doesn't seem to be a correlation between low fees and high participation or completion rates. Indeed, Statistics Canada reported in 2001 that the most likely candidates to attend postsecondary in Canada were youth aged 18–24 whose parents were highly educated with incomes over \$100 000 annual; it was a long-term pattern at the time.

"There's no data anywhere that we've come across which shows any relationship between tuition rates and accessibility. None whatsoever," Mota said. "In fact, Québec has the lowest tuition rates in the country and [among the] lowest per capita attendance, whereas Nova Scotia has the highest tuition rates and has [among] the highest number of people attending, so there's no relationship that we can see between low tuition and accessibility."

PLEASE SEE **QUÉBEC** ♦ PAGE 2

Students rally in SUB

SU representatives and featured guest speaker, Avi Lewis, mark Canada's National Day of Action

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

"Education is a right," "Grants NOT loans" and "Hey Alberta, where's my surplus," were just some of the messages students surrounding SUB stage held up on signs yesterday at noon.

"In this province, you don't get what you need and you don't get what you deserve. You get what you fight for and, ultimately, you get what you settle for."

LARRY BOOI,
PUBLIC INTEREST ALBERTA

The University of Alberta Students' Union organized the lunchtime event to recognize the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action, protesting high tuition fees. In the spirit of the day, many of the people in the

crowd donned free "Tuition Sucks" T-shirts and applauded enthusiastically while each of the presenters urged them to demand more support for Alberta's postsecondary system.

"In this province, you don't get what you need and you don't get what you deserve. You get what you fight for and, ultimately, you get what you settle for," Larry Booi from Public Interest Alberta told the attendees.

SU President Sam Power pointed to the recent 3.3 per cent tuition increase and 10 per cent residential rent increase as evidence that the issue of affordability isn't being addressed by the U of A's Board of Governors, the administrative body responsible for setting the University's budget, including the level of tuition fees.

"Individually, they're not bad people, but for some reason, when [the members of the Board of Governors] get together, they seem to make bad decisions," Power said, adding that since the funding cutbacks in the 1990s, students have continually had to bear the burden of the U of A's escalating operating costs.

PLEASE SEE **RALLY** ♦ PAGE 4

Inside

News	1-6
Opinion	7-10
Feature	11
A&E	12-16
Sports	17-19
Le Miroir	20
Classifieds	21
Comics	22-23



One ski at a time

Edmontonians take to their skis to commemorate Birkebeiner warriors who saved a little prince 800 years ago.

FEATURE, PAGE 11



Taste the rainbow

The Edmonton International BeerFest is going to be mighty colourful. Come taste the various shades of brown.

A&E, PAGE 12

Alerte au tremblement de terre! Bilian de trente cinq ans de bilinguisme au Canada

JESSIKA CÔTÉ-PAQUET
Nouvelles

La menace d'un tremblement de terre est très improbable pour la région d'Edmonton, alors bien évidemment, on ne s'en soucie guère. Certains croient que la seule menace réelle et meurtrière serait en Californie où des événements catastrophiques s'étaient déjà produits. Cependant, une minorité de personnes comprend les causes des tremblements de terre. Ainsi, un nombre insuffisant de la population sait pertinemment que le Canada est tout aussi un lieu de prédilection pour les séismes.

Tout d'abord, il est important de comprendre quelques notions relatives à notre planète pour démystifier le phénomène des tremblements de terre. Selon les théories acceptées par la communauté scientifique, la terre, aussi bien les océans que les continents, repose sur des roches concassées, nommées plaques tectoniques. Celles-ci bougent sur un matériel suffisamment liquide, la lithosphère, qui leur permet de ce déplacer. Ces mouvements sont très petits selon notre point de vue, car la longévité terrestre d'un être humain ne dépasse souvent pas 100 ans. Mais, il n'y a pas si longtemps que ça, au temps des dinosaures, Edmonton se situait sous les tropiques.

Ces plaques tectoniques, étant solides, se cassent parfois et résultent en d'autres plus petites plaques tectoniques. Lorsque des trous ou des fissures apparaissent, le magma peut

alors remonter à la surface s'il y a une pression vers la surface. D'où l'éruption d'un volcan. En bougeant, ces plaques peuvent s'éloigner, se rapprocher ou s'empiler les unes sur les autres en créant un stress sur des roches solides. Les roches ont tendance à résister à la cassure et vont plutôt se déformer, ce qui résulte en un emmagasinement d'énergie qui sera relâchée lorsque les roches se casseront, et ainsi un séisme est créé.

Mais, il n'y a pas si longtemps que ça, au temps des dinosaures, Edmonton se situait sous les tropiques.

L'état de la Californie est situé dans un endroit d'extrême faiblesse où il y a plusieurs failles et sur une plaque différente du reste des États-Unis les plaques du Pacifique et Américaine. Ces deux plaques vont dans la même direction, vers l'ouest, mais la plaque Américaine est plus rapide et donc, rencontre celle du Pacifique. Cela explique d'ailleurs l'apparition des Cordillères des Ouest, montagnes résultant de deux plaques en collision.

Peut-être avez-vous déjà deviné que le Canada n'y fait pas exception? Sa côte ouest est le lieu où trois plaques évoluent : Pacifique, Américaine et Juan de Fuca. Les séismologues cana-

diens étudient les mouvements sous-terrains pour connaître avec plus d'exactitude l'endroit et le moment du prochain séisme. Malheureusement, ce n'est souvent pas facile de pouvoir connaître ces renseignements. Mais, avec 4,3 millions habitants la Colombie-Britannique est un endroit sensible et sujette à un tremblement de terre. Le gouvernement a ainsi placé des moniteurs qui nous informent des déplacements des plaques et des séismes locaux.

Aujourd'hui, les séismologues ont donné l'alerte pour cette semaine, car ils ont enregistré des mouvements inhabituels au niveau des plaques et des séismes qui semblent remonter la côte ouest américaine. Cependant, il est difficile de conclure si oui ou non il y aura un séisme d'envergure pour la prochaine semaine. Tout ce qui est réellement probable, c'est un puissant tremblement de terre d'ici les 50 prochaines années au niveau de la côte ouest canadienne. L'armée canadienne est déjà préparée à exécuter un plan d'urgence si une grande population comme l'île de Vancouver est touchée.

Mais, pour prévenir des dégâts importants, il faudrait d'abord s'assurer que les bâtisses soient construites pour résister aux secousses et que les gens savent quoi faire en cas de séisme grave. Le code du bâtiment pour ces régions à haut risque ont bel et bien été modifié, mais toutes les constructions précédentes sont vulnérables aux tremblements de terre.

OMAYRA ISSA
Reportages

La dualité linguistique canadienne, est-elle une force agissante ou le vestige d'un temps révolu? Pour Dyane Adam, ancienne commissaire aux langues officielles, la réponse est claire, la dualité linguistique « va au-delà de la curiosité et représente un parfait atout ». Adam, qui était présente à la série de conférence Louis Desrochers de l'Institut d'études Canadiennes de l'Université d'Alberta, dit que la force du bilinguisme repose entre autre sur les francophones en milieu minoritaire qui ont su faire du Français, un moteur de développement.

En 35 ans de dualité linguistique au Canada, le bilan semble assez rassurant. Le dynamisme et le savoir-faire des communautés de langue française à travers le Canada, la reconnaissance institutionnelle de la minorité sont des acquis inestimables que plusieurs états envient au Canada. Dyane Adam confie que pour la première fois dans l'histoire officielle du Canada bilingue, « le gouvernement fédéral a le devoir de développer, donc de prendre des mesures positives en vue de la vitalité de la langue de la minorité ».

En promouvant activement la dualité linguistique du Canada, le gouvernement fédéral révèle, selon Adam, le défi politique de la société canadienne. Il invite ainsi les Canadiens et les Canadiennes de toutes ascen-

dances linguistiques de trouver « des valeurs fondamentales pour la légitimité des règles [de cohabitation] linguistique ».

Avantage comparatif et richesse collective, pour Dyane Adam, le bilinguisme canadien est bien trop nécessaire pour le Canada pour ne pas l'envisager comme partie intégrante de l'économie globale d'aujourd'hui. C'est dans cet état d'esprit que l'ancienne commissaire aux langues officielles disait, « les francophones ont la responsabilité de faire vivre le « inner frenchness » des anglophones pour qu'ils embrassent la dualité. » Car, semble-t-il, il y a un « inner frenchness » en nous tous, peu importe nos origines.

Le projet linguistique au Canada étant un projet inachevé et qui pose plusieurs défis, les vraies questions méritent des vraies réponses. Adam y voit non seulement, le développement de lieux de concertation entre les différentes communautés linguistiques du Canada, mais aussi et surtout, l'émergence des lieux de dialogue afin d'accueillir les nouveaux visages et accents de la francophonie canadienne. C'est aussi pour « développer une communauté de savoir sur les communautés francophones en milieu minoritaire. » Ainsi, le 26 janvier 2007, Dyane Adam réaffirmait la vivacité des communautés linguistiques à travers le pays tout en soulignant la complexité de la fresque linguistique aux maintes nuances du Canada.

Échappée d'un cœur lourd

Venus

Réalisé par Roger Michell
Peter O'Toole, Leslie Phillips et
Vanessa Redgrave
Princess Theater

ROMAIN CHAREYRON
Arts et Spectacles

« La vieillesse est noble, lorsqu'elle se défend elle-même, garde ses droits, ne se vend à personne, et jusqu'au dernier souffle domine sur les siens ».

Ces mots de Cicéron semblent avoir été écrits pour le personnage de Maurice, interprété par Peter O'Toole dans *Venus*, le dernier film de Roger Michell. Acteur au crépuscule de sa vie, Maurice n'en demeure pas moins un être indépendant et frondeur bien décidé à ne pas laisser les ravages du temps faner son esprit. Ce désir va connaître un dernier soubresaut avec l'irruption dans sa vie de Jessie, fille de la nièce de Ian, l'ami de toujours, venue aider ce dernier dans sa convalescence.

Cette jeune fille ordinaire et sans grande éducation va raviver dans le cœur du vieil homme un brasier qu'il croyait éteint pour de bon. Naît alors entre ces deux êtres que tout séparent une relation aussi touchante

qu'ambiguë, qui invoque les fantômes du *Lolita* de Vladimir Nabokov ou du *Pygmalion* de George Bernard Shaw. Jeune fille à l'esprit rétif, Jessie va, au contact de Maurice, commencer à se connaître, à s'aimer et, finalement, à aimer les autres.

Cela ne se fera pas sans accrocs, et c'est ce cheminement qui fait tout le sel de la relation entre ces deux personnages, relation qui, grâce à la finesse de l'histoire et la subtilité de la mise en scène, ne tombe jamais dans l'obscénité ou la complaisance. Le dégoût initial de la jeune fille face à l'intérêt que lui témoigne Maurice va progressivement se muer en une tendre affection, trouvant dans le regard de cet homme la bonté et l'affection qui lui ont jusque là toujours fait défauts.

C'est le réveil de ce cœur en hiver pour une ultime escapade qui offre au film une grande part de sa candeur et de sa fraîcheur et c'est sur ce sentiment, aussi intense qu'impalpable, que le film va dérouler son histoire. Une histoire belle comme l'amour qui naît et dure comme la vie qui finit.

Mais le film recèle d'autres surprises qui en font également la singularité, son irrévérence envers les affres de la vieillesse n'étant pas des moindres. En effet, il n'est nullement question



d'offrir une image d'Épinal de cette période de la vie où le corps cesse d'être l'allié de l'homme pour devenir son pire ennemi et où le « pouvoir » vient désormais mettre un frein au « vouloir ». Le corps nous est montré dans ses souffrances, ses petites victoires et ses grands abandons. Que le réalisateur ait choisi des acteurs aussi

émblématiques que Peter O'Toole ou Vanessa Redgrave pour interpréter certains des rôles principaux n'a d'ailleurs rien d'innocent puisque le plaisir que l'on prend à voir ces acteurs légendaires jouer et malmener leur statut d'icône fait partie intégrante de la qualité du film. Ce second degré envers sa propre image, marque des

très grands, n'empêche pas des performances tout en nuances et profondes. A ce titre, le tête à tête entre Maurice (O'Toole) et Valerie (Redgrave) qui fut autrefois sa compagne est un modèle d'émotion résumant à lui seul le message du film : même meurtri par les heurts de la vie, le cœur blessé continue d'aimer, et de vivre.

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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

"But I don't understand," said Prusakowski, the gritty gray smoke drifting up from his cigarette in a smooch, serpentine sinner.

"Don't get what?" said Kendrick as he removed the tin glasses from his face. He brought the spectacles up to examine them in the sickly yellow light of the apartment's single swinging bulb. He lowered them to the hem of his stained dress shirt, heavy with the grime and sweat of his three sleepless nights. He carefully rubbed the glasses with the hem of the shirt, and then examined them again.

Prusakowski opened his mouth to answer, but was interrupted by the sharp sorrowful crack of a .38 snub nose that fired the thick night air. The knob of the locked door flew to the scarred hardwood with a sweet, sultry swan song. The shadowed figure stepped into the doorway. His voice was like gravel. "I believe me was about to ask..." How could he get on the Internet?

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gateway student journalism society

PRESENTS

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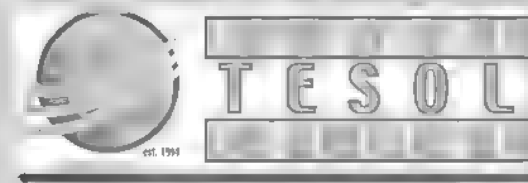


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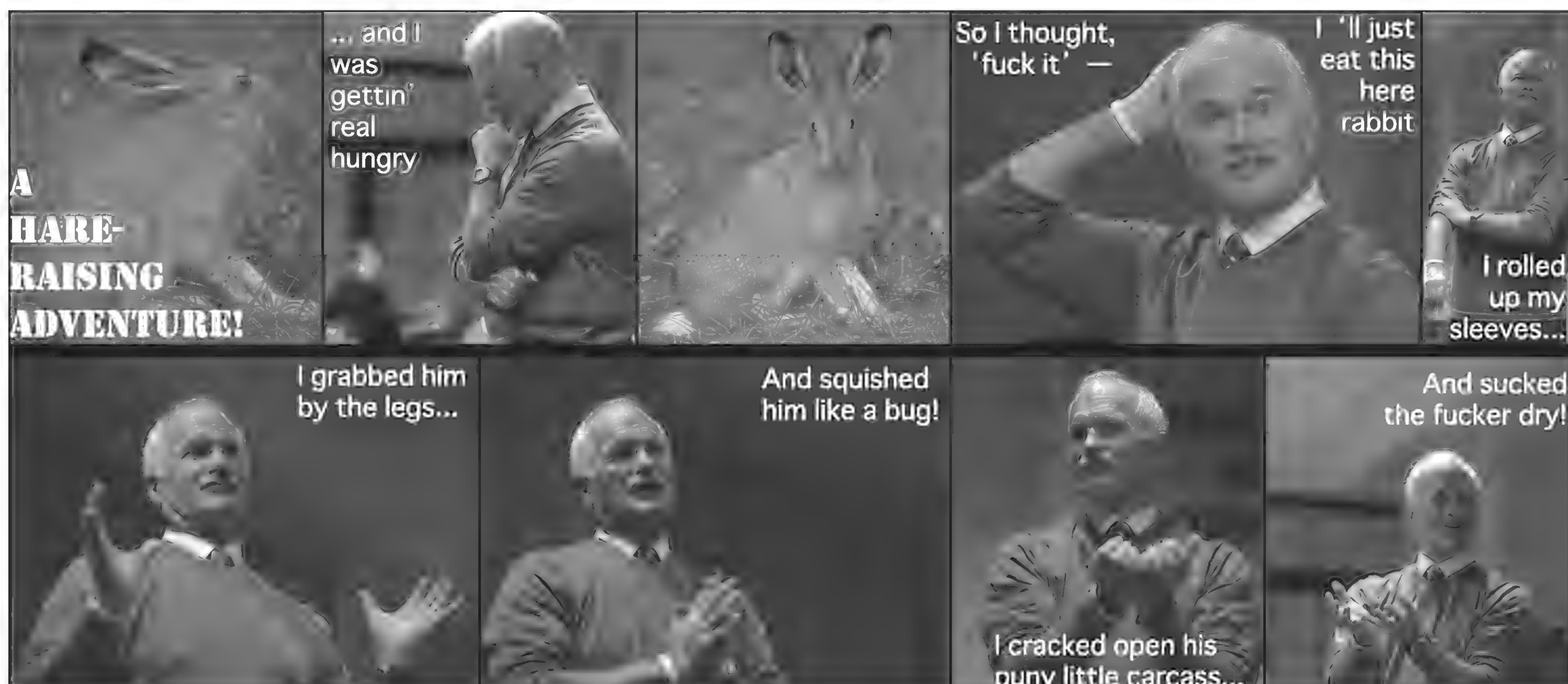
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VARSITY HAPPENINGS by Bill Benson



THE GATEWAY PRESENTS Jack And His Rabbit



06/07 ELECTIONS QUESTIONS

STUDENTS WILL VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING REFERENDA AND PLEBISCITE QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT IN THE MARCH 7 AND 8 STUDENTS' UNION ELECTION:

- 1 Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions?**
- The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and Winter Terms to undergraduate students enrolled in courses on the University of Alberta campuses located within the Edmonton City Limits.
 - The cost of the U-Pass to each student would be mandatory; and would
 - be \$75.00 per Fall or Winter term for the 2007/2008 academic year; and
 - increase annually at a rate less than or equal to the Consumer Price Index for the province of Alberta.
 - The U-Pass would be optional for the following:
 - students not enrolled in courses located on a University of Alberta campus within Edmonton for the majority of a term;
 - students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability;
 - students who are senior citizens; and
 - students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
 - The U-Pass would expire upon
 - the outcome of a subsequent referendum thereon; or it
 - being no longer practicable for the Student's Union to adhere to any of (1) through (3).

- 2 Do you support a beverage agreement between the Students' Union, the University of Alberta and Coca-Cola Bottling Ltd. subject to the following conditions?**
- Coca-Cola will continue to be the exclusive supplier of cold beverages on campus*.
 - The beverage agreement would
 - provide an average of \$524,377 annually, that would continue to be committed to scholarships, bursaries and student services;
 - be retroactively implemented as of June 1, 2005 and run until May 31, 2015;
 - eliminate the two year period during which the University of Alberta and the Students' Union will not receive an exclusive rights fee.
 - The 1998 beverage agreement between the Students' Union, the University of Alberta and Coca-Cola Bottling Ltd. will be retroactively terminated as of May 31, 2005.
 - All Students' Union members will be able to view the current beverage agreement.
- * Campus is defined by the current agreement and excludes Augustana Campus

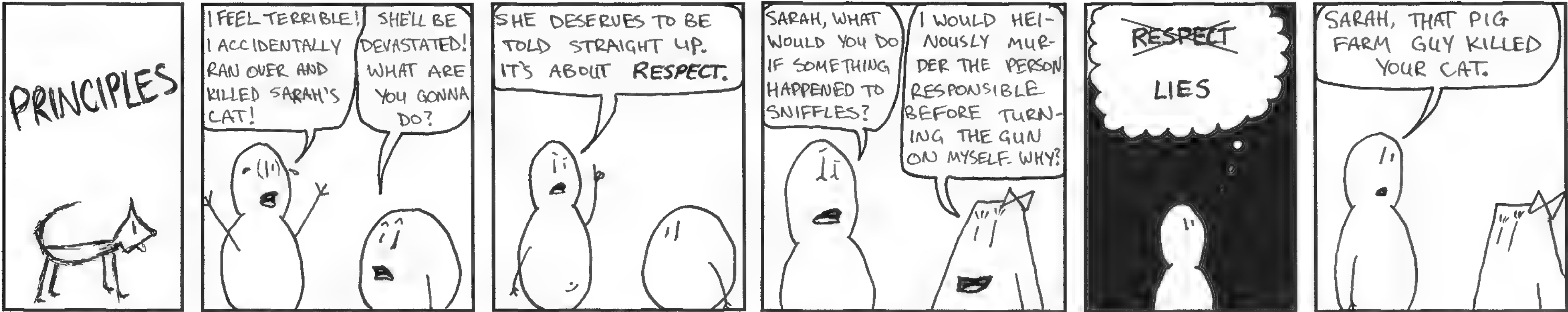


SU ELECTIONS MARCH 7TH & 8TH

If you would like to register as part of the YES or NO campaign for either of these plebiscite questions you must attend the upcoming Candidates Meeting. The Candidates Meeting will be held on Thursday February 15 at 6PM on the 3rd Floor of SUB.

For more information about how to register a plebiscite or referendum side, please email the Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca

PEANUT & CIRCLE by Chris Krause



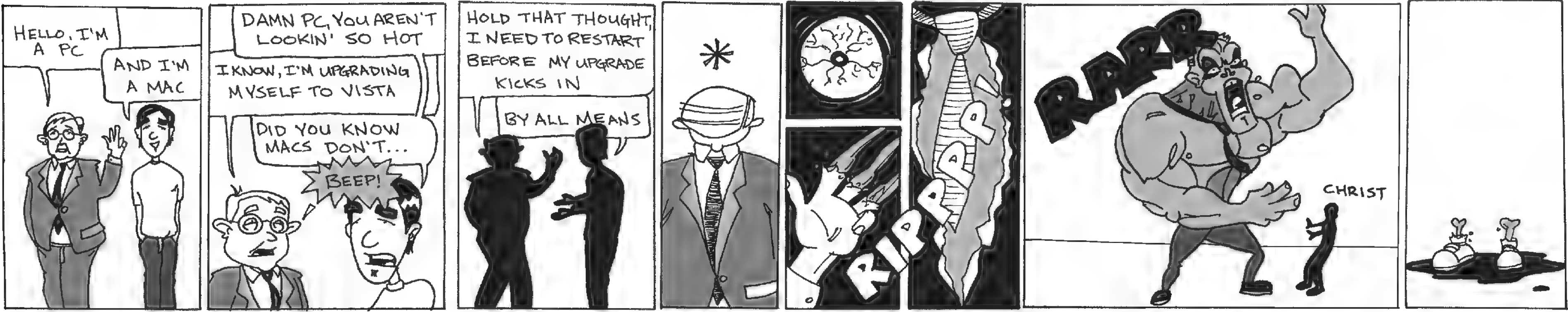
THE BLOWIE SHOW by Chris Jung



EWE OF A by Norman Lau



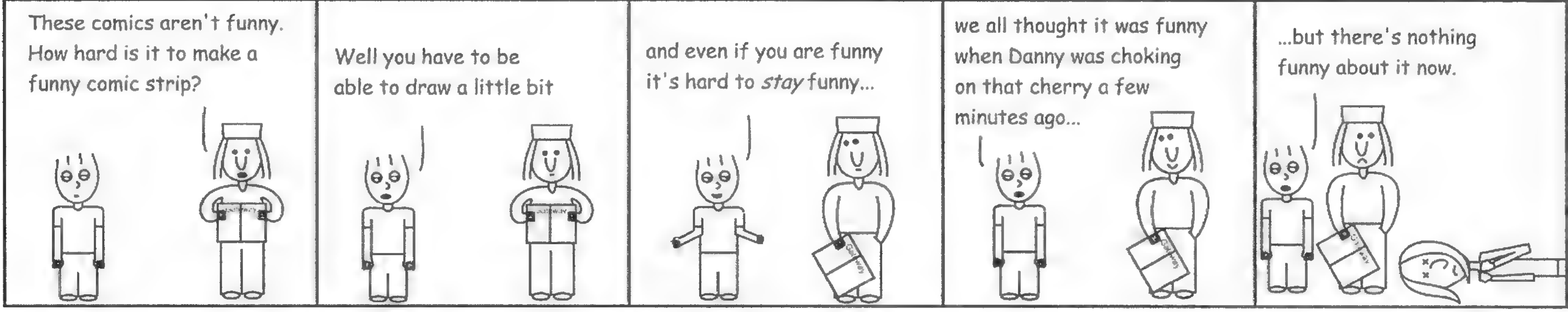
THE FINAL COUNTDOWN by Steve Schlauch



U OF WHO by Matt Lui



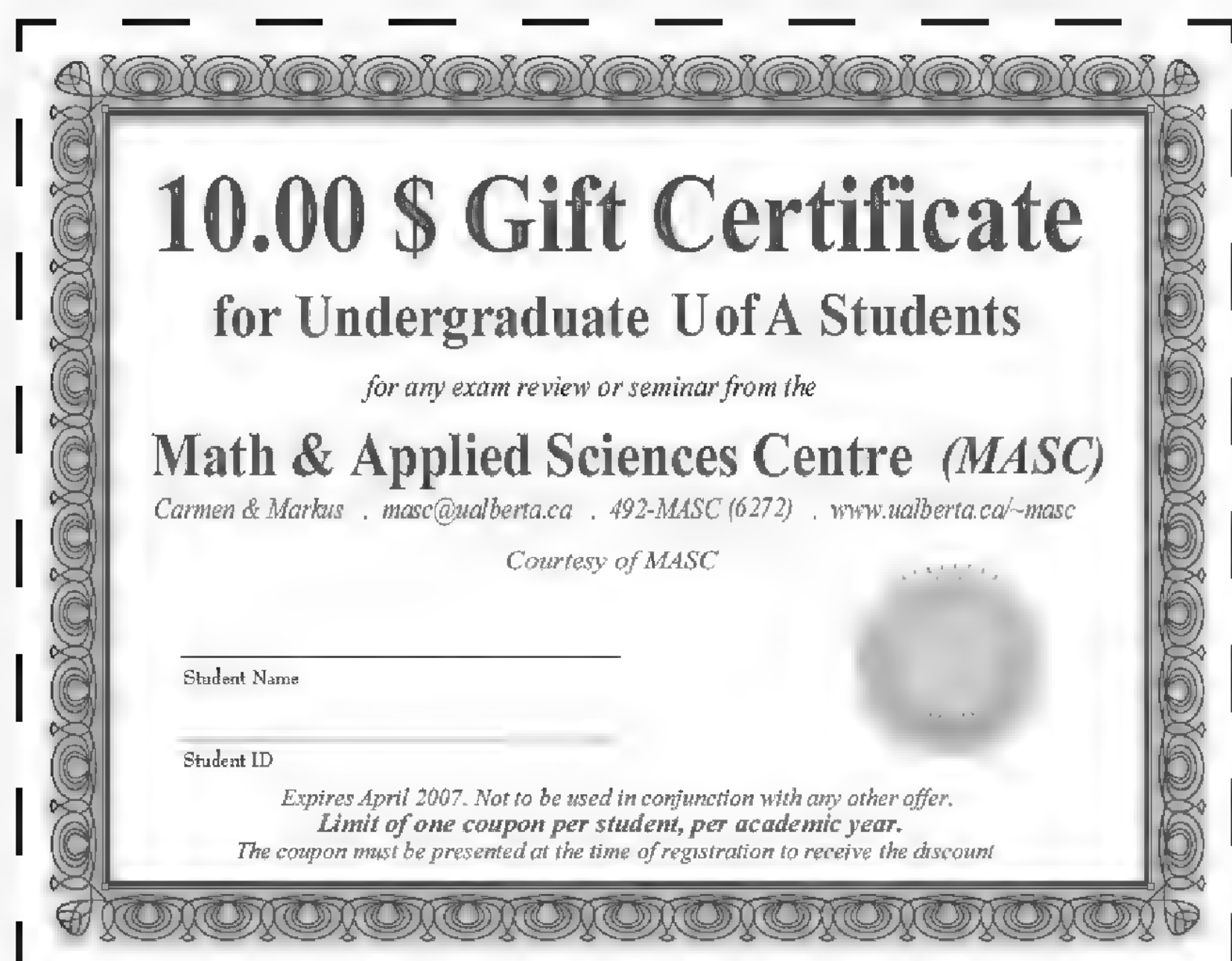
PITY MARKS by Steve Garner



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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan opt. ca. film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is printed directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitowan is the Gateway's sister paper and is available nearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Crap or Fact and Scrabble.

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Québec students poised to fight fee increases

QUÉBEC ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Having high access to university is less valuable if the university can't provide a consistently high quality education," Mendelson added.

However, Brent Farrington, deputy chair of the CFS and former student at Concordia, said that the drive to end the freeze is supported by a select few who don't value accessibility.

"I think what you see is university presidents going against the grain," Farrington said. "They're speaking on behalf of a prestigious few who think that accessibility should take a back seat to the prestigious few of their institution, and what we see in the province is people consistently rejecting that opinion."

"Having high access to university is less valuable if the university can't provide a consistently high quality education."

**MORTON MENDELSON,
MCGILL DEPUTY PROVOST
(STUDENT LIFE AND LEARNING)**

Farrington said that students across Québec will continue fighting to keep the lowest tuition in the country, putting pressure on government to reaffirm their commitment to the ongoing freeze.

"Even though [the government] might be dabbling with the idea of lifting this freeze, we won't take it and it's unacceptable. And students will take the street, and students will mobilize and their families will mobilize to keep this freeze in place," Farrington said.

During a phone-in student press scrum last Friday, federal NDP leader Jack Layton said that his party is supporting CFS' Day of Action and working closely with student groups to put pressure on the government to invest in postsecondary education.

"We disagree [that tuition freezes are an outdated policy], and I think that keeping tuition down through freezes and policies of reduction very definitely open the door to increased participation," he said.

Layton said that it's time other Canadian provinces start following Québec's lead, adding that a European approach to postsecondary is also key.

"I think [most European countries] recognize that the investment by society in educating young people is one that pays off in so many ways for their societies; that it's an investment, that it's a high priority. That doesn't seem to have been the philosophy in many parts of Canada," Layton said. "In Quebec there's been a recognition of the importance, really going back to the Quiet Revolution."

But Mota and Mendelson both cited an overall shortfall of funding in Québec, with estimates between \$375–450 million in the whole system.

"That's just to get our heads above water. That would simply put us at par with the rest of the country. And then if tuition rates did not increase, we would again start to slip behind," Mota said.

Mendelson further pointed to growing problems like high student-to-professor ratios and the lack of funding for infrastructure and research centres.

"At McGill, we like to think of ourselves as being able to punch above our weight, which means doing better with less. But it means that there are certain services that we may not be able to provide students as much as we would like," Mendelson said.

In addition to university infrastructure, Mota also said the lack of funding creates challenges with recruiting international students, and retain top professors due to lack of competitive salaries.

"When you're studying in Québec, you're paying basically nine per cent of what it costs to educate you. Everywhere else in the country it's about 30 per cent," Mota said.

Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External) said that Québec has "an incredibly unique situation in Canada," with a different kind of funding system that makes it hard to compare to Alberta.

"We don't use Québec as an example [when advocating]," Cournoyer said.

He said that the SU is lobbying for a tuition rollback to about \$3000 annually, at which point the current policy of having tuition increase by CPI would be sustainable.

"I wouldn't advocate for a freeze, per say. What we've found is that freezes in other provinces have become unsustainable," he said, adding that freezes have the potential of resulting in large increases once they end.



FILE PHOTO: NEAL WILDING

LAYING DOWN LOYALTIES Layton has sided with students on postsecondary.

NEWS BRIEF

FEDERAL NDP LEADER PROMISES TO PRIORITIZE POSTSECONDARY

As Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his party are drafting a budget to carry the nation forward another year, Jack Layton and the NDP opposition are hoping to capitalize on the minority government to force a compromise in their favour.

Layton said that the Conservative government is aware of the high priority the NDP places on postsecondary, and that his party is pushing for a budget that reflects that—though he was clear that no terms have been worked out between the two parties that would have the NDP support the budget.

"First of all, there is no 'deal,'" Layton said, last Friday during a press scrum. "What we have done is to very publicly say that we want a budget that addresses fairness and affordability for families today, and that would include students, and we've specifically highlighted education and training when we speak about that."

Layton has been working with students, travelling to campuses across the country and hearing students' concerns.

"With any minority parliament, what you try and do is raise the key issues, put the pressure on, try to work with those in the community that are trying to press government for action, and that's why

we're working closely with the student movement for instance," he said.

He said that this method allows a larger base of issues to be brought to the table and addressed, but stressed that no matter the final result, working with minority governments typically spreads initiatives thin between the various players.

"It usually isn't sufficient, and it usually doesn't match what you would do if you were in government yourself, but you then have to consider on balance: is it more important to have an election, or is it more important to take what has been accomplished and make it real? And that's the judgment that one has to make on a daily basis around here," he said.

On Monday, the Postsecondary Education Act was introduced to Parliament by Denise Savoie, NDP MP for Victoria, calling for university funding to be cut if standards for academic freedom, class size and public accountability are ignored. With this bill, the NDP hopes to increase the federal role in postsecondary, Layton said before the bill was introduced.

"I'm not necessarily expecting all other parties to say, 'You know what: let's give this bill unanimous consent, right now and make it law today.' My guess is that it's going to take a lot of hard work and a big campaign across the country to press for this sort of thing. But it's a tool that we feel is very important," he said.

Chloé Fedio, Managing Editor

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CAPS survey finds average salaries on the rise for U of A graduates

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

With spring convocation drawing closer, soon-to-be graduates worried about the prospect of entering the “real world” should take comfort in the results of a recent survey carried out by the University of Alberta’s Career and Placement Services office.

CAPS, in conjunction with the University’s Population Research Lab, followed 2012 U of A graduates from the class of 2000 and found that after five years they had an unemployment rate of 1.9 per cent—meanwhile the overall Canadian unemployment rate was at 6.8 per cent.

“If you’re looking at things such as unemployment rate and salaries, the results are more positive than in the previous surveys [we’ve done],” Joan Schiebelbein, CAPS Manager of Advising Services, said.

According to the survey’s results, U of A grads aren’t only finding work post-degree but are also experiencing career advancement, as their yearly salaries rose from \$35 000 to \$39 999 in the first six months after graduation in 2000 to over \$50 000 in 2005.

As in the previous two phone surveys, participants were asked for details regarding their salaries, jobs and work environment at periods of six months, three years and five years after leaving school; however, this time they were also asked about the sector or industry that they worked in and whether they were employed while studying.

Schiebelbein explained that she

wasn’t surprised to find 64 per cent of students had worked at some point when they were a student, but didn’t expect to learn that 60.7 per cent of them indicated that at least one of the jobs that they held while enrolled at the U of A was related in some way to the position they got after graduation.

“The higher your level of education, the lower unemployment rate you will have [and] the better salary you’ll pull in.”

JOAN SCHIEBELBEIN,
CAPS MANAGER OF
ADVISING SERVICES

“So that was a bit of a nice surprise to see that people are getting career-related employment while they’re students,” Schiebelbein said.

Despite the positive results, the idea presented in the *Edmonton Journal*’s 1 February, 2007 article that Arts grads “continue to lag far behind other degree-earners in finding work related to their studies,” irks Schiebelbein.

“Arts graduates are not falling behind,” Schiebelbein affirmed, stressing that a better indication of the value of an Arts degree is by looking at the fact that Arts grads are able to apply skills they earn at University in a variety of fields.

“That’s the bad and good thing about an Arts degree: it’s not specific

but it allows you a lot of opportunities and possibilities,” Arts student Anna Johansen said. Johansen is in her final year of a English major with a Scandinavian studies minor.

Johansen, who works part-time as an Advanis Market Researcher, explained that the work she does transcribing and editing will be useful once she graduates this spring and starts job hunting.

“Obviously, you’re not going to get a job writing papers,” Johansen pointed out. “But that doesn’t mean you’re unemployable, what I hear is that a lot of companies and businesses are looking for people who can communicate effectively and that’s where Arts students come [in]—they have the ability to communicate.”

Schiebelbein also emphasized that Alberta’s economic boom isn’t the sole factor for the increasing success of U of A graduates in finding employment. In 2005, Alberta held the lowest unemployment rate of all the province, at 3.9 per cent, however, this was still 2 per cent higher than the rate held by University graduates.

“The economy does have a role to play but I don’t think that’s the whole story,” Schiebelbein said, noting that even without the province’s economic boom university graduates will always hold a distinct advantage over non-graduates.

“The higher your level of education, the lower unemployment rate you will have [and] the better salary you’ll pull in.”

The next CAPS survey slated for completion in 2010 will be of 2005 graduates.

LIFE AND CAREERS AFTER GRAD

• Five years after graduation, there were no unemployed respondents from the faculties of Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Rehabilitation Medicine, and the schools of Library and Information Studies and Native Studies.

• Between the periods of six months and five-year after graduation, the proportion of U of A graduates who were self-employed had more than doubled to 8.9 per cent.

• Just over 38 per cent of respondents returned to school at some point in the five years following graduation. The

majority (52.6 per cent) continued their studies at the University of Alberta.

• The most successful work search method six months, three years and five years after graduation involved networking. For all three periods, approximately 42 per cent of respondents reported that they found out about the position they held from someone they knew.



Source: CAPS Employment Survey 2000 University of Alberta Graduates

Employment results five years after grad
(Faculty/Median Annual Income)

Agriculture/Forestry	\$50 000-54 999
Arts	\$40 000-44 999
Business	\$64 900-69 000
Dentistry	\$75 000 and above
Education	\$50 000-54 999
Engineering	\$65 000-69 999
Faculties Saint-Jean	\$45 000-49 999
Law	\$75 000 and above
Medicine	\$70 000-74 999
Nursing	\$60 000-64 999
Pharmacy	\$75 000 and above
Physical Education	\$40 000-44 999
Science	\$50 000-54 999

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RATT'S TOP 10 LIST FOR JANUARY!

as selected once again by a panel of staff and trusted regulars with a few arbitrary guesses.

- 10 >> Int'l Budokan V-Ball Team
- 9 >> Law Show Peeps
- 8 >> Engineering (85% of them anyway)
- 7 >> The New Projector!
- 6 >> K. Gold Guys/Jim
- 5 >> Wed. Mixed Chorus
- 4 >> PS Warren
- 3 >> Shyam & Friday Phys Ed gang
- 2 >> UACS "geeks"
- 1 >> Colin & Tasha (newlyweds)

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Lewis argues tuition is unnecessary

RALLY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The highlight of the food-court rally was a presentation by guest speaker, Avi Lewis, creator of *The Take* and host of CBC's *Big Picture*, who criticized student apathy on campus.

"Don't you think it's high time we drop this polite Canadian shtick? Let's stop being so goddamn shy about getting angry. It's the only sane response in a world gone mad," Lewis said.

"You live in a province with an \$8.7 billion surplus—your surplus alone is more than the entire budget of six other provinces combined," he said. "At this moment in history we could be dreaming big, we could be making good on the promise of affordable postsecondary education for all. At this point in history, the government wants tuition to increase year after year at the rate of inflation."

Power noted that promises, such as Ralph Klein's pledge in February 2005 that Alberta would have "the most innovative, entrepreneurial and affordable tuition policy in the country," don't hold any weight since the passing of Bill 40 last May. The controversial

bill took tuition out of legislation and placed it into regulation—meaning tuition policy can be changed without legislative debate.

"Don't you think it's high time we drop this polite Canadian shtick? Let's stop being so goddamn shy about getting angry. It's the only sane response in a world gone mad."

AVI LEWIS

"We have no security anymore in terms of what our tuition increase will be over the next few years, so we need the government to put that policy back into legislation," Power said.

However, Lewis went beyond calling for lower tuition rates, stating that, ideally, they wouldn't exist.

"In a country as rich as ours, in a

province with no debt and massive surplus, in the middle of an epic economic boom, I don't actually think tuition should be reduced—I think tuition should be eliminated."

Lewis took issue with a recent *Globe and Mail* editorial that stated tuition freezes, such as the one that has been in effect in Québec for the past 13 years, don't work.

"I don't even know if I want to go there with their editorial policy. I mean, the vast majority of evidence internationally is that tuition rates are linked directly to accessibility. It takes a kind of a contorted logic of a free-market ideologue to say that making something cheaper doesn't make more people able to buy it," he said.

He added that university administrators cannot argue against lower tuition rates by saying that they ultimately lead to institutional deficits.

"University administrations are selling out their students, and they've been doing it for a generation," Lewis said.

As of press time, no one from the U of A Administration was available for comment.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

CALLING FOR ACTION Avi Lewis urges students to get out and be vocal.

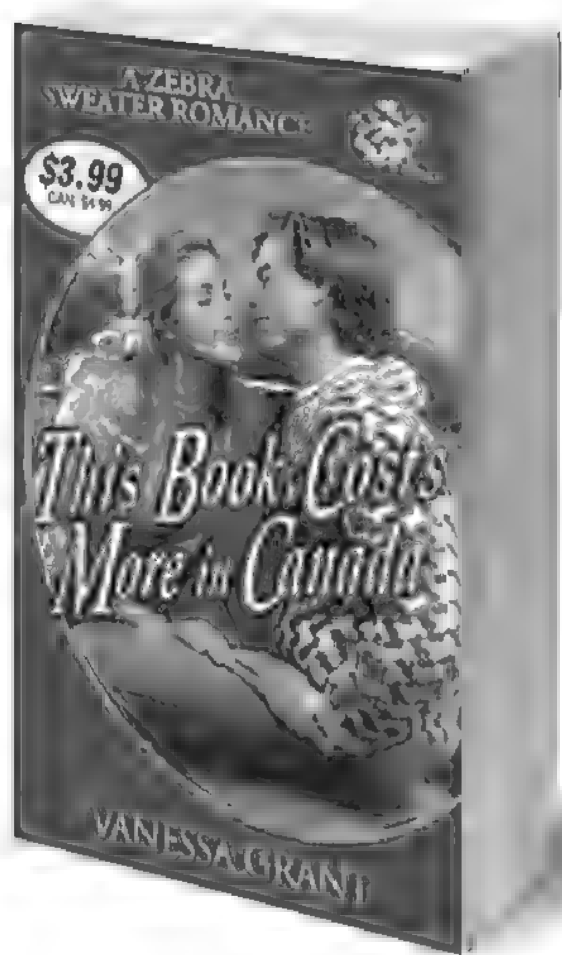
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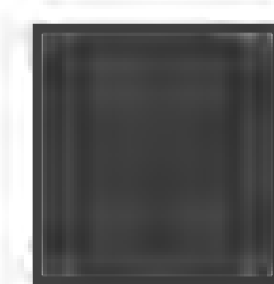


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STREETERS

At his speech for National Day of Action, Avi Lewis said he believes tuition should be eliminated.

If you didn't have to pay tuition, what would you do with the money?



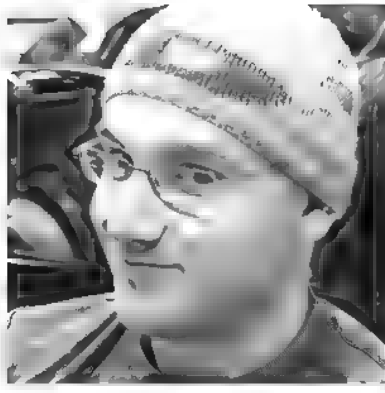
Louise Korbeil
Agriculture and Forestry II

[I'd] probably [use it] to pay for my rent and my groceries, and have more fun.



Becky Porcina
Science III

I'm gonna sound like a girl if I say that honestly I'd probably go shopping.



Adam Flanders
Business III

I'd go boozing.



Fraser Olsen
Science III

I'd go on a couple small trips. I'd probably go skiing and I'd probaly go see some music festivals in the States.

Compiled and photographed by Liz Durden and Andrew Rurak



FILE PHOTOS: JOSH NAULT (LEFT) AND HANNA NASH

SEEING DOUBLE SU VPs, Yusuf and Henry, represent students at Council, yo.

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13 February.

PRESENTATIONS

Council was to hear a presentation on the financial history of the Students' Union by General Manager Bill Smith. However, the presentation was postponed until next week to give time for councillors to look over the materials beforehand.

Another presentation, this one by Duncan Wojtaszek from the Council of Alberta University Students, gave a brief overview of the organization and its goals. He explained that CAUS, of which the SU is a member, focuses on advocacy efforts and petitioning the government on the behalf of students. A few questions were asked about the resignation of the University of Athabasca from CAUS in November 2005, specifically on if it would increase the fees paid by the remaining members. Wojtaszek said that there was a planned increase of around five per cent, mostly to keep up with inflation.

QUESTION PERIOD

The first question of the night asked about the state of bilingualism at the University. Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry said that the French language was strong at the U of A, with news positions being created la Faculté Saint-Jean and considerable cooperation with the francophone campus.

VP (Student Life) Omer Yusuf answered a question about the possibility of the return of the Physical Activity Complex referendum question for the next election. He explained that there's still a desire for a new complex, but it wouldn't get off the ground without some sort of student fee. However, Yusuf said that he felt students gave a clear message last year that they were opposed to this idea when the initiative to introduce a student fee towards its construction was defeated in the spring 2006 referendum.

Finally, a question was asked about discrepancies between different faculties in regards to the student-professor ratio, and whether the SU had any plans of addressing it. Henry noted that the decisions of hiring were up to the individual faculties, and that it was important to keep in mind that different programs didn't have the same needs or finances available.

COKE OR NO COKE

The Coca-Cola plebiscite question, proposing the renewal of the Single Source Beverage Agreement, came up for a second reading, the last chance for revisions prior to getting approval to be on the ballot for this year. A number of wording amendments were proposed, but all of them were defeated. The question was passed unchanged, and will be put before students during the election from 7-8 March.

DFUS

A change to the way that student organizations collect funds from students was next on the agenda. The new process required student groups funded by Dedicated Fee Units to give evidence to Council to prove that they were fulfilling their mandates. The hope was that the changes would make the auditing process faster, as the Audit Committee wouldn't need to track down these materials. Others felt that it would be inefficient and unnecessary. Eventually, the motion was passed and Council moved on to other matters.

GRANT COMMITTEE

The next motion would give Grant Allocation Committee the ability to award up to \$3500 from the Eugene L. Brody Fund. Originally, the Committee was only able to give out \$500 or less from the fund, which is funded by a dedicate fee and is given out to campus charities. The motion was passed with little debate.

SMOKING

Finally, a motion that had been on the agenda for the past couple meetings came up for a vote. The proposition called for the repealing of the SU's political policy regarding the ban on the sale of tobacco products on campus. The supporters of the motion argued that the policy didn't accurately reflect the feelings of students, and that it was up to expire at the end of April anyway. Others were uncomfortable with removing the policy after the plebiscite last year showed that students were in favour of a ban. However, some pointed out that the lack of a "no" campaign might have made the results of the votes suspect, as well as the small number of people who voted in the election—causing one of the Arts councillors to ask if "the fact that four Arts students voted us in" made their spot on Council less than legitimate.

But in the end, the motion was defeated, and political policy remained. The meeting was adjourned, and Council was done for the evening.



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PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

DR. ROBERT SUMMERS
EAS 192

MAKE TEACHING MATTER
PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

“Dr Summers shows us how to look at issues objectively and to view them with an open mind. His classes are interesting, and he uses materials such as comedy skits, Calvin and Hobbes, and clips from movies or the news to reinforce what he is teaching us in class. He uses a variety of teaching methods (open discussions, lecture notes, additional readings) to convey the material, allowing for all types of learning styles to be accommodated. I hope that his efforts will be acknowledged for he well deserves it.”

MAKE TEACHING MATTER!

Excellent teaching is the foundation of an outstanding undergraduate education, and the university community needs to begin to value everyday achievements in undergraduate teaching.

The Students' Union is looking to recognize professors who demonstrate sincere enthusiasm for teaching undergraduates, innovative methods of engaging students in the learning process and a willingness to go beyond what is normally expected of a professor.

Nominations can be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

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Vancouver U-Pass expansion hits financial road blocks

ERIC SZETO
CUP Western Bureau Chief

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Greater Vancouver postsecondary students are now being told that they'll have to wait until at least 2008 to receive discounted bus passes, as negotiations for expansion of the universal transit pass (U-Pass) program remain at an impasse.

Many of the same problems seen in 2006—common pricing and administrative readiness—continue to contribute to the stalemate, transit officials say.

"All the student societies returned saying, 'We're not ready,' or, 'It's too expensive,'" said Graeme Masterton, manager of transit planning at the greater Vancouver transit authority, TransLink.

Last fall, TransLink came to the U-Pass coalition—a group of students responsible for administering the transit pass—and offered them a common price of \$34 a month. It was immediately rejected because the students wanted a rate similar to what the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University were paying.

At UBC and SFU, the only two schools in the region to have the U-Pass, students pay \$22.50 and \$24.50 a month respectively. The cost is included in student fees, and all students are required to pay, regardless of whether or not they actually use transit. In return, students have unlimited access to transit in the region where a monthly transit regularly costs between \$69 and \$130.

Up to 70 000 postsecondary students stand to gain from the program's expansion to seven community colleges. With the exception of Langara College, the schools—Capilano College, Douglas College, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Kwantlen University College, Native Education Centre, and Vancouver Community College—have indicated that they wouldn't be ready to implement the program this September.

"The student societies have probably missed the opportunity," Masterton said. "It's only going to get more expensive. They're focused on a common low price, and simply they just don't want to see any price offered."

But Christina Clews, a chairperson on the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College (VCC), has said that TransLink's unwillingness to compromise has frustrated the coalition.

"If [TransLink] were prioritizing students' needs then we would have already been at a consensus and had the implementation of this."

CHRISTINA CLEWS,
VCC CHAIRPERSON

"It's been quite an uphill battle," Clews said. "They've been fickle about what they've offered us before, and then they've gone back and they changed their minds."

Clews claims that TransLink came to the coalition last year with a common price of \$30 but came back soon after with an offer of \$34.

"If [TransLink] were prioritizing students' needs then we would have already been at a consensus and had the implementation of this," Clews added.

Glen Leicester, TransLink Vice-President (Transit Planning), reiterated TransLink's desire to expand the U-Pass to community colleges—but only if the project remained revenue-neutral.

Another suggestion being thrown around is for UBC and SFU to accept a rate increase to offset costs for TransLink.

However, the student government

at UBC, the Alma Mater Society, said it's going to wait until its current contract runs out in 2008 before it reassesses.

"You couldn't sell [the rate increase] as necessary," said Ian Pattillo, AMS Vice-President (External Affairs).

Pattillo was critical of the continued deadlock and felt that much of the problems stemmed from disorganization on all fronts.

"I don't think it's going anywhere in the next six months," he said. "TransLink isn't compromising in their price neutrality. The colleges are just too dogmatic about the philosophy of the same price, and UBC is too privileged with its own price."

Before the U-Pass, transit ridership at UBC hovered around 20 per cent, or 19 000 people per day. With the U-Pass, transit ridership jumped 50 per cent—to 47 000 people a day—and has made UBC the second-largest transit hub in BC's Lower Mainland.

The introduction of a U-Pass to the seven community colleges isn't expected to have such a sharp increase in transit numbers because many of the students already take public transit, explained Leicester, who anticipates a 10–15 per cent increase.

Here at the University of Alberta, depending on the results of a spring referendum, a potential \$75 per student per term student fee will be collected to help cover the full \$120 cost to Edmonton Transit System.

The remainder of the U-Pass costs will be made up in part by a commitment from U of A Administration to fund \$15 per student per term and an additional \$30 will be financed by Edmonton City Council and the City of St. Albert—the third municipality, Sherwood Park, is still negotiating.

Since the U-Pass referendum question passed its second reading in Students' Council, the decision to introduce the U-Pass along with the mandatory \$75 fee in fall 2007 lies solely with students who vote in the SU elections to be held on 7 and 8 March, 2007.

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Race Rocks surfs clean energy wave

New tidal energy turbine, the first of its kind, has British Columbian researchers monitoring the success of harnessing ocean power for future use

LEE GUILLE
Nexus

VICTORIA (CUP)—The moon has always held sway over the oceans, but now the tides and currents they generate will play a part in powering our way of life. Thanks to Canada's first free-stream current-powered turbine, the Race Rocks tidal energy project, waves can be used as an environmentally friendly power source.

Developed by a partnership between Clean Current Power Systems Inc, Pearson College, EnCana Corp, and Sustainable Development Technology Canada, the tidal turbine costs about \$7 million to develop, install and monitor.

The working model tidal turbine, has been installed 16 km from the Race Rocks ecological preserve and research station off the coast of Victoria, BC, and works by drawing power from the movement of the tides.

Over the next several years, the station will be the test site for this new technology, before fully developing it elsewhere.

Although the system is only a quarter the size of an industrial model, the project is benefiting the research station. According to David Skilling, Communication Co-ordinator for Pearson College, the turbine supplies power to the marine education facility located on Race Rocks, giving it a clean energy option.

"We're very excited, because prior to this the island, and all our facilities there, were serviced by diesel generators. With the tidal turbine we're able to turn off those generators and avoid any damage to the pristine environment," Skilling said.

The Race Rocks tidal energy project is currently on such a small scale that it's unlikely to cause any environmental harm, but later, larger projects may be the cause of some worry.

"If you start doing this kind of thing large scale, putting lots of turbines in a tidal channel like the Discovery Passage or the Johnson Strait, eventually you get to the point that the turbines are so extensive that they start blocking the flow," said Chris Garrett, a professor of ocean physics at the

University of Victoria.

Mathematical studies and computer models suggest that turbines operating at optimum capacity could reduce current flows by about 42 per cent.

"If you're talking about an isolated turbine you don't have to worry about these considerations," Garrett said. "But if you were to say, 'Hey look we've got these wonderful, tremendously strong currents in Seymour Narrows, let's put a bunch of turbines in there and get as much electricity as we can,' there you enter a different realm of having a significant effect on the currents and presumably other things, too."

In regards to safety concerns and gathering information for later use, Pearson College and the Race Rocks facility both have their eyes on developments concerning their tidal turbine.

"We don't expect any real effect on sea life or on the sea bed," Skilling said, explaining prior studies were completed accessing the likelihood of ecological harm and Pearson College students will continue monitoring environmental impacts.

OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 8 february, 2007

I swear I thought this all up myself

MACLEAN'S MAGAZINE OFFICIALLY SEEMS TO HAVE cornered the market on sensationalizing postsecondary education issues: first it was the infamous University Rankings, now collectively shunned by over 25 of Canada's major academic institutions; this week, they've got their hearts set on exposing the "national scandal" of University fraud.

And why shouldn't they? After all, it sells them a boat-load of magazines—and what demographic spends more money than paranoid middle-aged suburbanites preparing to send their kids off to school? It was apparently with this motivating factor in mind that *Maclean's* tried their hand at some hard-hitting investigationalism, skewing statistics and fudging the facts in an attempt to uncover the shocking secret that *Canadian postsecondary students cheat*.

At this point, some Clinton-esque defence arguments are required. Because it all depends on what you mean by "cheat." And it also depends on how much people will admit to.

The article cites methods such as copying from others, helping others and using crib notes—each of these can be carried out to varying degrees of illegality, and are all quite distinct from each other as well. Does copying from others mean looking over your neighbour's shoulder in a tightly packed lecture hall during a multiple-choice exam, or just collaborating on a particularly difficult lab assignment? Does helping another student mean doing his or her math assignment—possibly for a fee—or just giving some grammar pointers on their essay?

In each case, the former is a clear-cut case of cheating, whereas the latter is much more of a plagiaristic gray area. But do students really know what they're admitting to when they respond to such questionnaires? Sure, over half of the Guelph students (the group on which the study is based, making it hardly representative of all Canadian students) surveyed admit to cheating, but are they all admitting to the same kind and severity of cheating? Doubtful. Clearly, it also depends on how you track and interpret such data. The Guelph study focused on "serious cheating on written work"—this doesn't account for multiple-choice exams, technical assignments or in-class essay-writing.

Despite all of the above-mentioned fact-skewery, the more egregious logical leap in the article occurs in its insistence throughout that when students cheat, their respective universities' degrees are thereby rendered valueless. It equates cheating grads with faulty products that need to be recalled, implying that universities are mere factories producing unfeeling automatons for the awaiting global economy. But it's precisely this trained-and-educated mentality that leads to such ruthless, dog-eat-dog competition in the first place.

The universities are partly to blame for this: there are more expectations on students than ever before, and this trend will only continue as professors' increasingly high standards are grudgingly met year after year. Couple this with what *Maclean's* describes as "token anti-plagiarism policies" and "ineffective ethics campaigns" in place across Canada, and you've got yourself a breeding ground for bad apples.

For its part, our dear old U of A seems to have a pretty strict system in place—and still there are daring cheaters right here in our midst. Perhaps, then, it's simply the case that we've all been given the plagiarism spiel so many times that most students' eyes just glaze over as soon as the syllabi are hauled out.

Of course, students are the ones who need to be held most accountable. Blame if you like on our internet-based culture of ripping, burning and downloading everything in sight. Still others will undoubtedly insist there's a more overarching trend towards selfishness and self-entitlement amongst "today's kids." But this is just the classic old saw about corrupted youth that's been spouted off for millennia—fears that are inevitably and perpetually proven to be unfounded.

I think it's safe to conclude that *Maclean's* latest round of fear-mongering will prove unfounded as well. To be sure, there are cheaters out there—thousands, and with some of them getting caught, but not all. But to suggest that our culture is on an inevitable collision-course with corruption and decay is short-sighted indeed—even for a publication that manages to invent a new crisis every week.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

Transit costs don't add up

While the U-Pass seems like an excellent idea, the Students' Union and/or ETS made one big screw up in their planning.

I'm a student living in Fort Saskatchewan, and I'm curious why the U-Pass includes St Albert and Sherwood Park, but not my city. We are indeed connected to Edmonton through ETS buses. However, we're exempt from the U-Pass, so we will still have to pay the money from the Fort to Clareview and back.

The bus pass I pay for now is \$120 per month, and it is good for use to and in Edmonton. It carries a discount (\$6 to Edmonton plus \$4 on the train equals \$20/day, \$200/month). The U-Pass, I assume, will be useful to me in Edmonton, so now it would be pointless to buy a pass that has Edmonton-wide use included in its fees. Unfortunately, though, since the U-Pass doesn't cover my trip to Edmonton, I'll have to end up paying \$120/month (no pass, no discount ... \$3 each way, \$6/day, 20 days/month equals \$120). It ends up being the same price as my pass would be anyway.

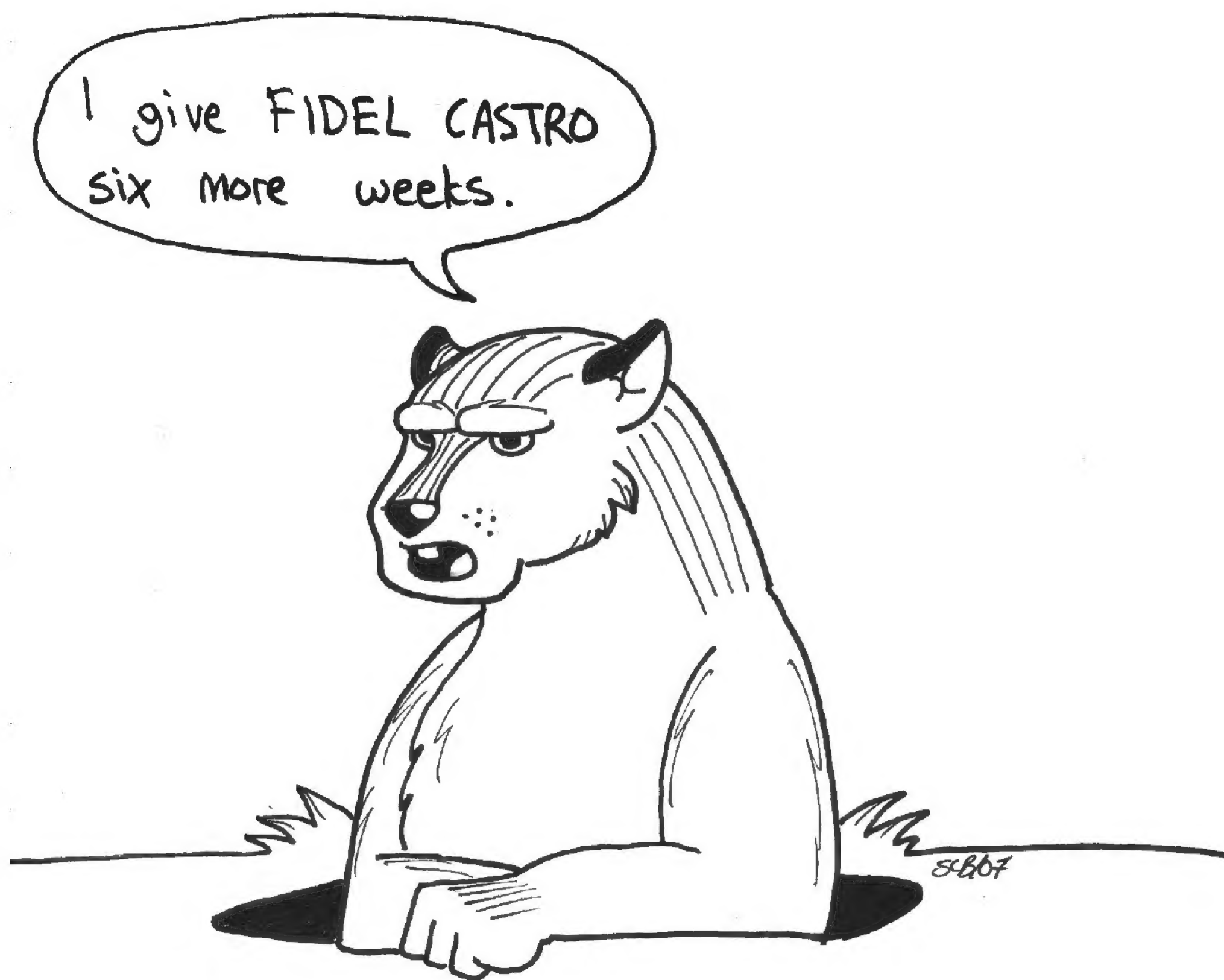
If I do get Edmonton-wide benefit from this mandatory U-Pass, yes, I'll get unlimited public transport through Edmonton (so my LRT trip to the U will be covered), but I'll still have to pay \$120 per month just to get into Edmonton. Basically, I'm definitely not saving any money here. I'll be paying my \$120 per month, plus the mandatory U-Pass fee.

What's the point? So my Sherwood Park friends (who are the same distance from the University as I am—actually, their journey to and from the school is longer) get to pay only \$150 per year (they can get into Edmonton with the U-Pass) while I'm paying a grand total of \$1110 (\$960 to get into the city plus \$150 U-Pass) for those same eight months for the same service. Actually, the Sherwood Park students get far comfier buses, but that's beside the point. This difference of \$960 is absurd. It's bad enough I have to pay inflated ETS prices now, but starting next year I'll have another \$150 of mandatory transit fees I can't even really make use of, since it won't pay to get me into the city. That's just adding insult to injury.

I thought the Students' Union aimed at reducing student debt. Apparently they're doing the opposite. Starting [in] September I'll be required to pay an extra \$150 per year for public transportation [if the U-Pass referendum passes – eds]. Is this what I'm paying the (of course, mandatory) \$65 "membership" and "dedicated" fees for each term, so that the SU can think up new and better ways for me to get in debt? Thanks, guys.

Don't get me wrong, I think the U-Pass is a fabulous idea, I just don't appreciate being discriminated against so much so that I have to actually pay extra money for a service I don't get benefit from. If Fort Saskatchewan could be added to the list of those places eligible for the U-Pass, I'd be extremely happy, and more importantly, saving \$960 a year.

MIRANDA SAYER
Arts I



RETURN OF THE DEATH GROUNDHOG

SCOTT C BOURGEOIS

Ban Ki-moon would not be amused

I recently saw a poster in the Tory Atrium proclaiming "Education is a right, not a privilege! Down with tuition!" I have to say that I am completely appalled by this statement. The "right" to a postsecondary education does not exist, not even in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 26(1) of this declaration states that, "Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit."

We are not entitled to a university education nor should it be provided for free. I will gladly hand over my tuition money every semester as it gives me the means to create a better life for myself, my family and our society. I agree that there is a basic human right to primary education as it gives us the ability to communicate, understand and participate in our society, but those who believe that we have the right to a postsecondary education should try and explain this to those in the underdeveloped countries where even primary education is still often only for males and the rich.

I would much rather see the Alberta government give greater funding to inner-city elementary schools and families than give it to me to make the BComm degree I have worked very hard for just slightly cheaper. Our generational

sense of entitlement has gone too far to expect a free postsecondary education while others, even in our own city, suffer much worse.

KRYSTAL BACHA
Commerce III

What about a 'Quad' chair lift? Eh? Eh???

What would I do with \$1 726 000? I think I would use it a lot wiser. I think that the SU should build a giant gondola around the University. It would speed up everyone's day and make everything easier. If we bought this amazing contraption and then charged people a \$30 miscellaneous fee it would be paid for in two years. Think about it. A gondola paid for in two years. Then we could charge a maintenance fee and it would be perfect.

HOWARD SENGELS
Arts I

Deal with drug problem differently

Trevor Larson makes a lot of sense (re: "Weeding out the competition," 6 February). Serving the marijuana needs of Canadians is too profitable to prohibit. And since prohibition causes violence and the worst thing marijuana can cause is a good night's sleep, it's time to call marijuana prohibition what it is: a failure.

In my experience at buying marijuana over the last 30 years I have found that the average retail marijuana purveyor has about 30 regular customers. It is estimated that

Canada has about 3 million marijuana smokers, or one tenth of the population. When one calculates 30 users per dealer into 3 million users, you get a total of one hundred thousand marijuana retailers in Canada. Assuming a ratio of one wholesaler per ten retailers, we also have ten thousand marijuana wholesalers. So, we are up to 110 000 marijuana dealers already.

Whenever you read fantastic police accounts of big busts you need to keep in mind that putting any retailer out of business only temporarily inconveniences 30 people and a new supplier is as easy to find as an alternate liquor store—there is another wholesaler a block away.

Legalize it and tax the distributors and users. I would feel better if my purchase went towards education and social programs than lavish lifestyles for drug dealers and job security for police court and jail staff.

CHUCK BEYER
Via e-mail

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

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An out-of-this-world affair

CONAL
PIERSE

I've always been highly skeptical of the whole "alien abduction" idea, and figured the anal probing stories were just a drunken gay experience that Grandpa won't cop to. However, recent events have changed me from a skeptic to a true believer.

On Monday, 5 February, Colleen Shipman was walking to her car at the Orlando International Airport when she was attacked by a space traveller. No, it wasn't a little green man—or even an oblong gray man for that matter—but rather a crazed astronaut with a can of mace.

Navy Captain Lisa Nowak is now officially facing charges of attempted kidnapping, battery and attempted murder—and, unofficially, of creeping the ever-loving shit out of me. What would cause an astronaut, shining exemplar of our childhood dreams, to do such things? My theory: space dust.

The "official" explanation, however, is that the two women were involved in a love triangle with Commander William Oefelein, a fellow astronaut and veritable space stud. My revised theory: zero-gravity space boning followed by an awkward morning after wherein she's wearing his spacesuit and talking about meeting her parents. Houston, we have a problem.

As a whole, astronauts have always seemed a little unbalanced to me—I mean, their job pretty much entails being shot at the sky. But Ms Nowak

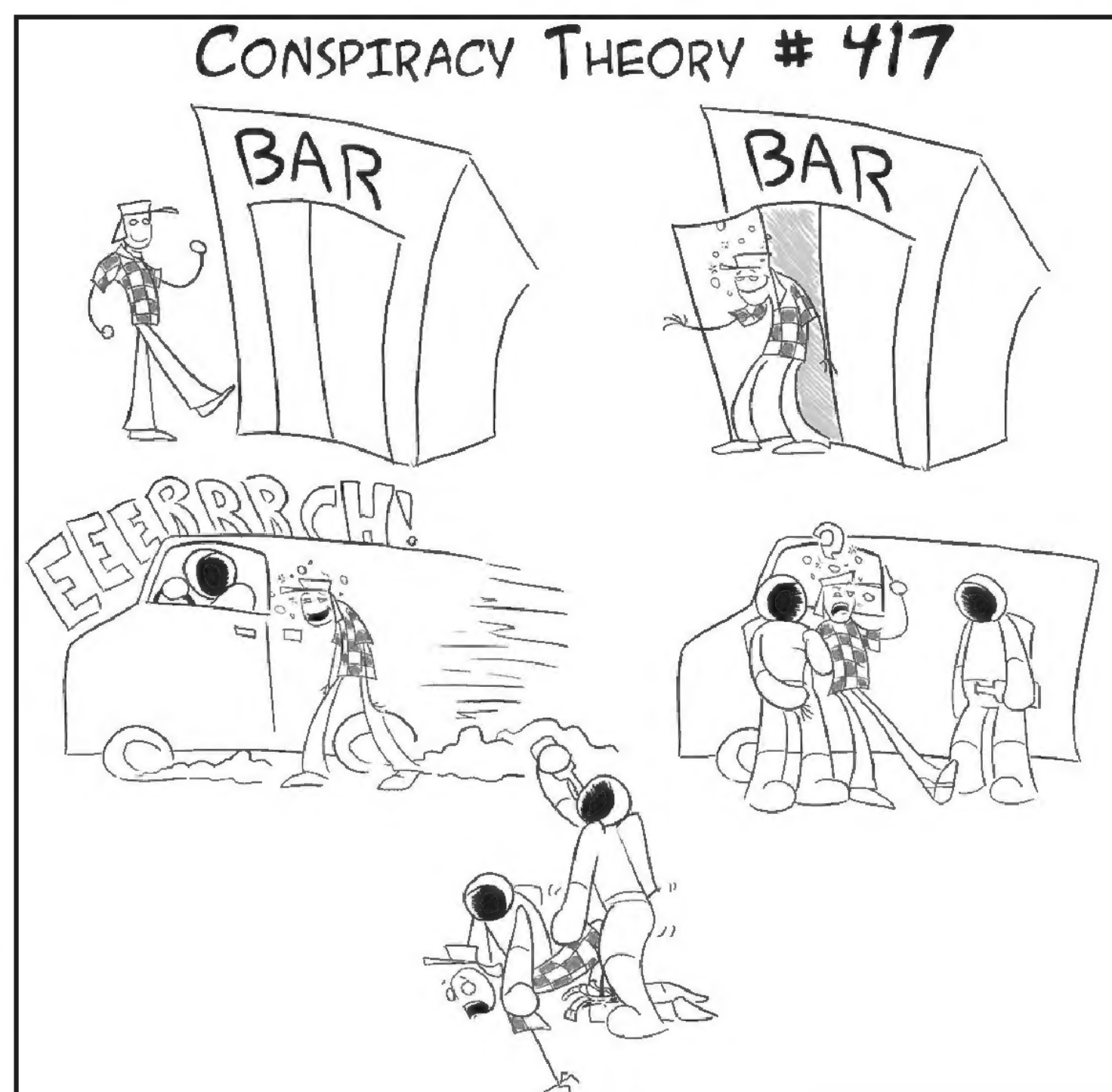


ILLUSTRATION: CONAL PIERSE

has really managed to climb Mt Everest of crazy with this one. When she found out about a potential rival for her space stud, she did what seemed logical at the time: she loaded up her car with bin bags, an air rifle, a steel mallet, a wig and a trench coat to avoid detection (and of course the ever-sensible stack of adult diapers). Whereas the Proclaimers will walk a collective 1000 miles for love, this broad is willing to drive that far without even stopping to piss. I can understand the allure of a spaceship captain, but still, you don't see Chewbacca hauling ass to Endor to deal with that Leia slut.

Nowak's lawyers are currently refuting the murder charges, and I agree with them—this was not attempted murder. I mean, a fucking BB gun? Macaulay Culkin was better-prepared

to kill someone than her. Thankfully NASA was also level-headed enough about the entire affair to ground her, which I'm sure must have helped her case as she must have been a definite flight risk before. Good luck trying to prosecute someone who's on the moon, jackasses.

In the end however, I'm left with an overall feeling of disillusionment with the whole space program. This event has really shattered my world-view and made me question things I once knew to be true. No longer can I write the Roswell incident off as a conspiracy theory, but instead am left wondering if it wasn't just a cover-up for some sex-crazed astronauts. Worst of all, I'll never know if Grandpa was lying, or if he really was raped by a randy Buzz Aldrin.

Borderline insane techniques

Plans to patrol the 49th parallel with unmanned drones are ho-hum at best

PAUL
KNOECHEL

Stupidity comes in many shapes and forms. There's your everyday stupidity that consists of pretty harmless things: forgetting you've got something in the microwave, not setting your alarm in the morning, leaving your car lights on. Then there's the really stupid things that are more detrimental: arriving to meet your girlfriend's parents late and still smelling like last night's kegger, or thinking you can drunkenly talk your way out of a public urination fine when cornered by the cops. And finally, there's the, "Holy fucking balls, this couldn't be stupider if there was a lobotomy involved," which is exactly what I said to myself when I saw that the American Department of Homeland Security has started rolling on plans to patrol the entire Canada-US border with unmanned planes.

Now, I haven't said much against the practices of our southern neighbours that I don't find particularly bright. Things like their homophobic laws, their foreign policy and electoral choices have had me scratching my head from time to time, but enough is enough already. To think that they can

put some shiny planes over the longest undefended border in the world and suddenly anyone wanting to harm them will go, "Well damn, I'm out guys. I mean, I'll travel halfway around the world to kill myself and as many civilians as I can, but damned if I'll mess with some remote control planes," is utter lunacy.

Anyone who's seen a spy film can think up half a dozen ways to elude something that essentially boils down to a security camera, including crossing legally if you have proper ID-or some good fakes.

This isn't to say that these Unmanned Predator Drones are unimpressive pieces of technology; they've participated in surveillance and air strikes in the Middle East, and patrol the US-Mexic border from such a height that you would never be able to tell that they're there, even though their satellites can read the license plate of a car.

But just because you can watch something cross the border doesn't mean you can do anything about it. Is Homeland

Security going to scramble the helicopters each time someone crosses a little-maintained part of the border without checking in with anyone?

And even assuming the planes are close enough to see anyone trying to sneak into the States, anyone who's seen a spy film can think up half a dozen ways to elude something that essentially boils down to a security camera, including crossing legally if you have proper ID—or some good fakes.

I can't help but think that the effort being put into this is a misplaced one. These drones cost US\$7 million each, and with a range of 1400 km, five would be needed to cover the majority of the border. That's \$35 million just to buy the planes, and doesn't account for maintenance and operating costs. Meanwhile, roughly one million people crossed into America illegally from Mexico last year, and less than two per cent of crates entering US ports are checked coming into the country. Not that I think these problems have any easy solutions, but if you want to throw away some money, it should be on something that makes at least some sense.

The stupidest thing about this though, is that somewhere some old couple is hearing about this and talking about how they'll be safer now that they don't have to worry about a nuke going off in their little town. For their sake, I just hope if one of those little planes go down, it's not in their backyard.

There's more to sex awareness than the birds and the bees



ELIZABETH
MCMILLAN

"Women need to be able to talk about what's important. People, relationships and bodies get hurt if we don't. It's not healthy keeping quiet and it's not helping anyone. Friends are a place to start. Partners are the next step. By no means is this a female-only issue either: men have their share of sex-related touchy subjects."

This week is Sexual Awareness Week, so let's talk about sex. After all, everyone loves to talk about it. Right now, all around Edmonton, people are relating with a knowing smile what exactly they did last night. Who, what, where, why, when—and how.

No longer off limits, sex saturates the mainstream. Female sexuality, and the idea that women are empowered by being sexual, is everywhere. We've got it covered. We're open, we're informed, we're aware—or are we?

In the 1960s, there was a radical movement to encourage women to share their experiences with other women. In these organized "Consciousness Raising" groups, women began doing the unthinkable: they talked. Not small talk. Not chit-chat. Not gossip. Up-front and political discussion of issues that affected their lives: gender roles, relationships, careers, parenting, vaginas. Women started talking, and didn't stop.

Since that time we've replaced Tupperware parties with fantasia nights. Meg Ryan faked an orgasm during dinner. Samantha Jones taught the world how to fuck—or buy a vibrator. It almost makes you think there's nothing left to blush about.

When was the last time you talked about a non-sexy topic? Even if we

have no problem bringing up sex toys in the library, chances are many women still don't feel comfortable speaking about the dark crevices of unmentionables that remain.

Domestic violence, sexual dysfunctions, female masturbation, sexual assault, abusive relationships, depression, sexual health, eating disorders, abortion, homosexuality: how many people talk about how these issues relate to them personally? In a non-hypothetical sense, I mean.

We may profess to be non-judgmental, but no one wants to be "that girl"—the one who got knocked up mid-semester, who didn't know she could get herpes from oral sex, who questioned her sexuality, who throws up after meals, who has to take pills. And while we may have overcome the idea that good girls don't do bad things, we've still got sexual hang ups.

Empowered sexual women aren't supposed to have questions; they're not supposed to put up with abusive relationships, unwanted sex or sexual harassment. They're supposed to know better than to sleep with chauvinist pigs. They're supposed to have safe sex. They're supposed to be okay with their bodies. They're supposed to stop judging themselves after casual sex. And they're *supposed* to orgasm.

But sometimes, they don't. Just because female sexuality stopped being taboo doesn't mean that everything is out in the open. Maybe it's just made the blind spots harder to pick out. Sometimes we're still a guilt-ridden, anxious, insecure and uninformed bunch. And maybe we wouldn't be if we felt more comfortable admitting that. After all, sex ed didn't end in high school.

Women need to be able to talk about what's important. People, relationships and bodies get hurt if we don't. It's not healthy keeping quiet and it's not helping anyone. Friends are a place to start. Partners are the next step. By no means is this a female-only issue either: men have their share of sex-related touchy subjects. But talking to each other can only happen after we admit things to ourselves. We've come a long way baby—but there's no sense in stopping now.

So let's start talking and listening. Let's stop holding sex against ourselves and each other. Let's keep enjoying the good stuff and stop hiding the bad stuff. Sexual awareness can't be airbrushed; the discussion we all need won't be found in the pages of *Cosmo*. It might even happen over brunch—as long as no one loses their appetite.

THE BURLAP SACK

Yesterday's National Day of Action to lower tuition hosted by the Students' Union didn't spark too much interest in me. I acknowledge that tuition is high and it forces a lot of students into debt, but my personal lack of being in the red made it a wholly inconsequential event.

However, the promise of free food drove a few of my Gateway cohorts and I out of the office and into a lineup that stretched out of SUB's north doors towards the Alumni Room. We would soon learn that the food was indeed free—but at what cost?

We were first met with a brutally slow line. In all honesty, I would have finished this Burlap Sack earlier, but the

SU made me wait 20 minutes for food. What is this? The Great Depression? Why can't we teach the SU some Keynesian economics?

The second disappointment was encountered when we finally made it to the front of the line—outside in the cold. But as chilled as we were, the allure of free barbecued goods kept our spirits relatively high. That is, until the rumours of no-money down hamburgers were dashed, as SU VP (External) David Cournoyer announced to the line, "the hot dogs are almost ready!"

Hot dogs? What the hell!? I just waited in a long line for a fucking hot dog? The SU is now officially a bunch of commies.

If higher tuition means I don't have to wait in the cold for a hot dog and can maybe score myself a free hamburger in the warmth of a building, then here's an extra loonie per semester.

Hell, if an extra ten bucks means I can jump to the front of the line and enjoy a nice free-market hot dog instead of a Karl Marx Brand Generic Tube-Meat, it will be worth it.

The SU is too busy fighting a losing battle against rising tuition. They need to focus more on the important things of university life, like throwing a good free barbecue that doesn't feel like sitting through a political philosophy lecture.

So into the sack with the SU and their pinko dogs. It's time for my boot and I to have our own day of action.

RYAN HEISE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

Buck Wild
WEDNESDAYS

\$1 HI-BALLS
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